THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TOM HARKIN
IOWA

April 17, 1997

4-19-97
Original to Chris Walker COS copied

DO FY — BK

Dear Mr. President:

As we discussed the other day, I believe it is

4-18-97
to Congressional Affairs for response after you have reviewed?

Yes ✓
No —

Jan'k also working on a number of similar letters. Chris W. should coord with Jan

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Sincerely,

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TOM HARKIN
IOWA

April 17, 1997

DO FY — BK

Dear Mr. President:

As we discussed the other day, I believe it is essential that the FDR Memorial include a statue depicting FDR in a wheelchair. Future generations of Americans need to know that it took a disabled President to lead a disabled nation. FDR symbolizes the simple, yet profound truth that disability is a natural part of the human experience that in no way diminishes the ability of a person to fully participate in all aspects of American life.

I am enclosing a copy of FDR's Splendid Deception by Hugh Gallagher, which I found very insightful in gaining a better understanding of FDR's inner strength.

I am personally committed to do whatever it takes to ensure that an additional statue is added to the Memorial. I look forward to working with you and others in achieving this critical outcome.

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Arm-twisting Latin America

When it "decertifies" neighbours in the war on drugs, the United States achieves more insult than effect

THE news will surprise some of its members, but no one appointed the Congress of the United States as God. No, nor even as lawmaker, policeman, jury, judge and executioner to planet Earth. Not even the American president, who at least heads, not just legislates for, the planet's only superpower, can claim as much. Yet between them—Congress more, Mr Clinton less—they have been trying to play all these roles. And in so doing they have antagonised their country's friends without notably hurting its enemies.

Last year's folly was the Helms-Burton law against investment in Cuba. This bit of extra-territorial arrogance has angered much of Europe and Latin America, without destroying Fidel Castro. Similar, if less contested, threats to those who have certain dealings with Iran and Libya have not brought down, or even low, the ayatollahs or Colonel Qaddafi.

Last year brought also the "decertification" of Colombia (and, very nearly, of Paraguay, to that country's rage) in the war against drugs. President Ernesto Samper, no less than his country's drug barons, was one target of that American decision. Has he gone? Despite the best efforts of some of those entitled to dispose of him—the citizens of Colombia, not the United States, or even its ambassador there—he has not.

This year Mr Clinton decertified Colombia again. He might have added Mexico, had its drugs scandal erupted a little earlier; and, when he did not, the lower house of Congress, happy to do the president's work for him, blithely passed a resolution requiring that the Mexicans too be decertified unless they met sundry tests of anti-drug virtue written by itself. Wisely, the Senate showed more sense. So has Mr Clinton in not applying to Colombia, as yet, the economic sanctions that decertification can lead to. But, despite that, all that has been achieved is to make Colombians and Mexicans alike angrily and publicly defensive of their sovereignty.

True, Colombia and Mexico are awash with drugs and drug-traffickers. So, as both governments point out, is the United States—and with users too. But even if that riposte were unjustified, no country, however mighty, is entitled to write the laws of others. That, exactly, is what the United States demands: they must alter their criminal codes and extradition laws, even (in the Caribbean) open their territorial waters to American coastguards. Or else risk public disgrace, like errant schoolboys, and threats of economic sanctions.

And the price?

This is no way to treat neighbours. That a big country can arm-twist small ones is a fact of life; to make a yearly, codified, public display of it ought not to be. And what does it achieve? It wounds friends. Latin Americans have long memories of being shoved by Uncle Sam, and many governments, privately or through bodies like the 14-country Rio Group, have joined the Mexi-Colombian chorus of anger.

Does it also lessen the flow of drugs? Some Colombians say Mr Samper's anti-drug efforts would have been far less vigorous (and vigorous they have been) but for the stick of decertification. Yet Mr Clinton's own drug-fighters have doubts about the process; his ambassador in Mexico last week openly called it counterproductive. And for all the drug busts south of its borders, experts in the United States detect no lessening of the flow. Nor does the market. If supply shrinks, prices should rise. They have fallen.

Breaking the ice

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

India and Pakistan have a rare opportunity to put the past behind them

ON ANY list of the world's most intractable conflicts, the cold war between India and Pakistan comes near the top. Like the conflicts in Palestine, Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland, the argument combines religious rivalry, territorial dispute and historical grievance—a poisonous mixture that tends to make would-be peacemakers give up in despair. In the case of India and Pakistan the bitterness of the dispute is particularly alarming. The two countries have fought three wars in the past 50 years and are both thought to have secretly built nuclear weapons.

Now for another try at breaking the ice. On March 28th senior officials from India and Pakistan are due to start what they hope will be a series of talks that could eventually normalise relations. Past efforts at a political warming have soon petered out because of deep-seated rivalries, especially over disputed Kashmir. But there are two reasons for hoping that things may turn out differently this time. One is that both countries have newish governments—and Pakistan's has a big majority behind it. The other is that these two governments share a similarly liberal economic outlook. Both countries stand to gain a lot from better relations.

In recent years, both India and Pakistan have realised how far they have slipped behind the booming economies of South-East Asia. One of the main reasons why the South-East Asians have prospered is that they have concentrated on economic development, setting aside old quarrels and territorial disputes. Former adversaries, such as Malaysia and Indonesia, have better things to do than shoot at each other. If India and Pakistan could learn to set aside their differences, they might be able to divert their energy into dragging more of

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
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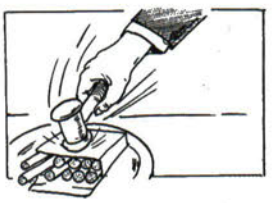
their people out of poverty.

The economic benefits of improving relations are potentially huge. Both governments need to cut defence spending if they are to tackle their chronic indebtedness. Both would benefit enormously from increased cross-border trade and investment. Family and trade links were ruptured by partition in 1947. Friendlier relations, which eased restrictions on visas and cross-border links, would allow some of these networks to be put back together again. Trade between the two countries could boom.

There could be other benefits too from such growing interconnectedness. India remains haunted by the prospect of communal violence between Hindus and Muslims, a prospect which has only increased with the rise of the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. But communal tensions could be eased greatly if India's Muslim neighbour was no longer seen as enemy number one. Similarly, some Pakistanis are attracted to the fundamentalism of the holy warriors in Afghanistan and Iran. Achieving peace with India would drain support from the fundamentalists and snuff out any thoughts of a *jihad* against the non-Muslim world.

Can the politicians and diplomats seize this opportunity? At this early stage neither side can be expected to make real concessions on the main territorial dispute—the future of Kashmir. That would simply invite a political backlash at home. But agreement to pull troops back from the Siachen glacier in the Himalayas would reduce tensions. Making it easier to travel and do business across the border would start to build ties of common interest. These are the sort of small steps that could eventually lead to peace.

Tobacco's Brutus



The treachery of Bennett LeBow should encourage Big Tobacco to drop its Big Lie that smoking is safe

HAVING behaved so often with imperial arrogance, America's tobacco bosses have now been stabbed in the back by one of their own—and soon after the Ides of March to boot. On March 20th Bennett LeBow's Liggett Group broke ranks with Big Tobacco and reached a settlement with the industry's tormentors. It has promised to give state governments a portion of its profits for a quarter of a century, admitted that cigarettes cause cancer and that nicotine is addictive, undertaken to say so on its cigarette packets, and offered to disclose documents recording the industry's internal strategy discussions. In return, more than 20 state governments that had been suing to recover the costs of caring for sick and dying smokers will drop their actions against Liggett.

Now that he has kicked the industry's habit of denying that there is anything the least bit unwholesome about smoking, Mr LeBow finds his motives impugned by the tobacco bosses who have continued for years to insist with straight faces at congressional hearings, against all the evidence, that they do not believe nicotine to be addictive. He may indeed be motivated by a desire to save his shareholders' fortunes rather than the lives of smokers. But Mr LeBow's motives are not the point. The balance of power is beginning to turn against the tobacco firms in America, and if the industry is to save itself it had better now consider following his example.

People should be allowed to smoke, and companies should be allowed to sell them cigarettes. Like many other products, cigarettes both give pleasure and cause harm. In a free society, people should be allowed to indulge in pleasures that cause damage to no one but themselves. Consistent with this, there is a case for restrictions on the way in which cigarettes are advertised and sold: because cigarettes are addictive and dangerous, children are at risk of being hooked by a bad habit before they are old enough to make a reasoned calculation of the odds. As rich countries become more health-conscious, it makes both business sense and moral sense for the tobacco industry to defend its activities on the grounds of some such liberal balancing of freedom and restraint.

In America, however, the tobacco companies have not tried to defend themselves on these lines at all. Until the defection of Mr LeBow, their posture has been one of absolute denial, coupled with a vain attempt to conceal the facts about smoking's dangers. Contrary to research evidence in its possession, the industry has refused to acknowledge that nicotine is addictive. Contrary to its public assertions, it is suspected of having targeted some of its marketing explicitly at children. Predictably, the obstinacy of the companies has stoked the fury of smoking's opponents, many of whom need no inducement to trample down the notion of free choice.

Encouraged by a sympathetic White House and by a growing climate of intolerant finger-wagging, America has already gone too far in its crusade against smoking. In some jurisdictions smoking is now banned in any public place, even outdoors. Indeed, much of the litigation currently in train against the tobacco companies smacks of hypocrisy. Some plaintiffs may not have known when they began their habit that tobacco was dangerous, but most of those seeking damages are refusing to take responsibility for their own informed decisions. As for the state lawsuits that prompted Liggett's settlement, these border on the ludicrous. If state governments can sue tobacco firms for pushing up their health-care costs, why not sue the makers of cheeseburgers and skis for increasing the number of heart attacks and broken legs?

Now, there's a thought

Just possibly, Liggett's decision to come clean will persuade the rest of the industry to drop the Big Lie, confess that smoking is dangerous, and see whether they can arrive at a settlement under which they limit their past liabilities but remain free to sell their products in a manner that combines full disclosure of the dangers, protection of children and freedom of adult choice. The alternative is an unedifying war to the finish between an increasingly unpopular group of companies and an increasingly intolerant public. The lesson from the Ides of March is that the tobacco companies can no longer be as certain as they once were of prevailing in such a battle.

Study: Many in Graying Work Force May Not Have the Green to Retire

By Frank Swoboda
Washington Post Staff Writer

The nation is heading into the next century with an aging work force that will include increasing numbers of workers forced to stay on the job longer because they cannot afford to retire.

That outlook emerged yesterday from the Workforce 2020 report of the Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank. The report also raises the specter of a work force increasingly divided by education and skills into the "haves" and "have nots," with little hope for the low-skilled unless major changes are made in education and employment policies.

The work force is expected to remain dominated by white non-Hispanics. But Hispanics—a population grouping that includes whites and blacks—will gradually displace African Americans as the largest minority ethnic group in the work force, the report said, drawing on U.S. Census projections.

But the biggest single workplace change taking place over the next generation will be the aging of the work force, according to the authors. "The American labor force will become somewhat more brown and black in the next 20 years, but its most pervasive new tint will be gray," the report said.

The authors warned that "U.S. public policy as well as many employers have yet to come to grips with the full implications of of America's aging."

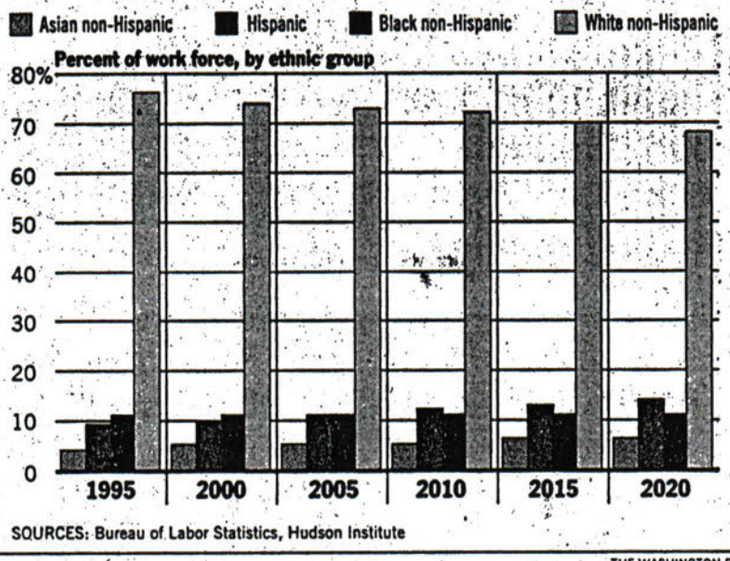
The report highlights the retirement dilemma to be faced by many in the baby boom generation—Americans born between 1945 and 1965, who will begin to reach age 65 in the year 2010.

"By the year 2020, almost 20 percent of the U.S. population will be 65 or older." the report said. "There will be as many Americans of 'retirement age' as there are 20- to 35-year-olds. America's aging baby boomers will decisively affect the U.S. workforce, through their departure from and continued presence in it."

The simple truth for many workers in the baby boom generation is that they will not be able to afford to retire when they reach age 65, according to the report. "Some who reach age 65 will continue to require outside income and will be unable to retire. Many others will not want to retire and will seek flexible work options. As average life expectancies extend past 80 years of age, even many of the well-heeled will conclude that 20 years on golf courses and cruise ships do not present enough of a challenge," the report said.

THE CHANGING FACE

Although white non-Hispanics will continue to dominate the work force, Hispanics eventually will replace blacks as the largest minority group in the labor pool.



SOURCES: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Hudson Institute

THE WASHINGTON POST

This demographic phenomenon, the authors predict, will force public policymakers to come to grips with the building pressures on both the Social Security system and Medicare. And, they said, it will force employers to rethink their employment and benefits policies to deal with the problem of older workers staying on the job longer than traditionally expected.

The authors, reflecting the admittedly conservative cast of the Hudson Institute, offer a series of public policy prescriptions not unlike many of the solutions now being offered by congressional Republicans.

In the workplace, the authors said, both employers and workers will have to change their ways to accommodate the growing number of older workers among them. For employers, this means devising a whole new benefit scheme for such things as health coverage to meet the needs of the elderly and long-term care.

Another major problem facing employers will be "the continued presence of top level older employees." These older workers, the authors said, are apt to cause dissension among younger, middle-aged subordinates "eager for promotion." They said employers will also have to create off-line or part-time positions for older employees to allow advancement opportunities for younger workers.

"As retirement ages become increasingly less predictable, workforce planning will become more uncertain. Human-resource professionals will find it hard to predict the date at which older workers will retire," the report said.

The new report comes 10 years after the institute issued its landmark Workforce 2000 report, which helped reshape both corporate and government thinking about the future of the work force, introducing terms such as "skills gap" and "workplace diversity" to the lexicon of the human resource industry.

Commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor to help provide "basic intelligence on the job market" for federal policymakers, the 1987 report warned of a growing skills gap in the workplace as a result of increasing technology and the need for employers to embrace diversity in the work force as more women and minorities entered the job market.

The Workforce 2000 report served as the foundation for many of the education reforms proposed since then, including national testing, skill standards and a boost in on-the-job training. One byproduct of the Workforce 2000 report was the bipartisan Goals 2000 legislation that offers federal money to states that voluntarily adopt national academic standards for their students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read a summary of "Workforce 2020" prepared by its authors, click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's Web site at http://www.washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1997

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Shaking the Family Tree

Fossils May Reveal Ancestor of Humans, Apes

A1

By Curt Suplee
Washington Post Staff Writer

Fossils unearthed from ancient rock in Uganda have revealed what scientists say is by far the oldest known common ancestor of both men and apes: a shockingly big, tree-dwelling lug that could hang around comfortably in an upright position, but that walked somewhat awkwardly on all fours when on the ground.

The finding, reported by a diverse international team in today's issue of the journal Science, dates the remains to 20.6 million years ago. That is about 10 million years before the next oldest viable fossil candidate for a common ancestor. And it is roughly the period in which a great evolutionary split presumably occurred, producing one lineage that would go on to become various kinds of latter-day monkeys and another group, called hominoids, that would become modern apes and humans.

If the new analysis is confirmed—and some experts are skeptical—the heretofore uncategorized creature, which the researchers have named *Morotopithecus bishopi*, will shatter the widespread assumption that the common ancestors of modern apes and humans in that era were probably as small as contemporary gibbons.

The find also "really pushes the time scale a long way back," said Terry Harrison of New York University, a scholar of fossils from the Miocene epoch, as the period from 25 million to 5 million years ago is known. "What it means," said Harri-

See ANCESTOR, A6, Col. 1

ANCESTOR, From A1

son, who was not involved in the work, "is that hominoids had already diverged by 20 million years ago," a development that some had suspected but that remained frustratingly absent from the fossil record.

The Ugandan fossils, which include cranial material, parts of the spine and shoulder socket, and remnants of a thigh bone, belonged to an animal about four feet tall, weighing 90 to 110 pounds, that was a "cautious climber," according to the researchers. *M. Bishopi* (named for Moroto, the Ugandan town near which it was found, and W. Bishop, who discovered the first fossils) was "mostly a fruit-eater," said David Pilbeam of Harvard, part of the international team.

The creature's capacity to hang by its arms while browsing through the heavy forests that covered central Africa at the time may have given it a competitive advantage in dining. "The general consensus now," said Pilbeam, is that arm suspension allows an animal of substantial weight "to get into parts of trees that others can't because it can distribute its weight better than animals that place all their weight on top of the branch."

Contrary to what might be imagined, the creature probably walked on its palms when traveling on the ground; knuckle-walking, experts said, was a later development.

Prior to *M. Bishopi*, the best fossil evidence of early Miocene ape-like creatures was much more monkey-like. "Very few of the remains," said Bill Kimbel, science director of the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley, Calif., "approached the anatomy that would have been expected."

Specifically, three critical features that are logically necessary to the eventual development of modern apes and humans were conspicuously missing. For example, any animal that is going to spend an appreciable amount of time in an upright posture needs a fairly stiff lower back. That entails broad, short lumbar vertebrae with bony outcroppings to anchor the spine in muscle, reducing flexibility. (Monkeys, by contrast, have supple, flexible spines adapted for more horizontal postures.)

In addition, an arboreal creature that often has its backbone in a vertical position—an essential anatomical prerequisite to walking on two legs—would probably require two other elements: a thigh bone thick enough to absorb a lot of vertical stress; and a shoulder socket that permits ample swiveling movement, especially raising the arms directly over the head to pull up. (Monkeys can't do this. They climb like cats.)

None of the leading candidates for a common hominoid ancestor, including the dozen species of ape-like creatures known to have existed 18 million or 20 million years ago, quite fit the bill. The ones that did dated from nearly 10 million years later. As a result, Kimbel said, scientists "have been looking for and not finding the creature that would be at the root stock of all living hominoids."

With one possible exception: A group digging around Moroto in the 1960s had turned up the remains of a highly intriguing creature that seemed to satisfy many of the ancestral criteria. But scientists were baffled by its seemingly contradictory features. The skull, jaw and teeth appeared appropriately primitive. Yet its stiff back seemed a bit too much like modern apes.

In 1994 and 1995, the collaborators whose work is published today (including researchers from Northern Illinois University, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, the Berkeley Geochronology Center in California, Harvard, Yale and Uganda's Makerere University) set out to revisit the site.

They dug up many new skeletal samples apparently belonging to the same enigmatic species, and then subjected their find to rigorous and precise modern geochemical dating methods not available in the 1960s. The result showed that the creature, despite its misleadingly modern-looking anatomical features, was nearly 21 million years old.

Several experts remain unconvinced that *M. bishopi* constitutes the real paleoanthropological McCoy. "The material, although important and interesting, is very scrappy," said David Begun of the University of Toronto. "It's very difficult to interpret," and "I wouldn't go so far as to say this is evidence of modern anatomy."

What is needed, Begun said, "are some parts of the body that will show unambiguous linkages to great apes."

The collaboration is enthusiastic about providing just that. "We're going to keep looking in the Moroto localities," said team member Laura MacLatchy of SUNY at Stony Brook, perhaps as early as the end of this year.

The Washington Post
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1997

Office of the Director

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472
April 16, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Nancy Hernreich
Director

FROM: Loretta Schaffer
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Janis Smith Letter

James Lee has conveyed to me that this lady requested that he makes sure the President sees this letter and article.

We would greatly appreciate your handling this for us. Thanks for all your help.

Attachments

to Sim Dorsbins
for reply

Monroe County
Human Development Center, Inc.
1116 N. New York • Drinkley, Arkansas 72021 • (501) 734-1155

Willette Romious
Executive Director
Eastern Arkansas Enterprise Community
322 N. Izard Street
Suite 101
Forrest City, AR 72335

2-5-97

Dear Ms. Romious:

Enclosed is a proposal for a new project we hope to initialize at our center to assist in training Welfare recipients. Welfare Reform will create many gaps some of which we will try to fill. We appreciate your organizations interest and assistance.

In order to begin this project we need waivers, special permission or conditions. From the Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation we would need a category for a welfare recipient. Possibly for unskilled/illiterate people. This would allow these individuals access to the services that they provide. This would allow them to participate in our program as Rehabilitation Clients of whom we have an existing contract for. Even if this isn't possible a waiver from the Department of Labor for permission to train and pay this group commensurate and/or piece rate wages as they train would be of great assistance. We currently have a special workshop certificate that allows us to pay in this manner for disabled workers. For those with children we would need vouchers for daycare while they train and for at least a few months after they begin competitive employment from the Department of Human Services.

These "waivers" would allow welfare recipients participation in ours and possibly others programs for vocational on the job training and job placement in competitive employment that already exists.

Our personnel have successfully trained and placed disabled people in competitive employment. Each person is individually assessed and goals are developed. They're given on the job training, experience, daily living skills and employment application training and coordination with the local literacy council if needed. Follow up reviews after placement are made to ensure the success of the trainee.

We provide a licensed daycare center for children 0 - 5 years of age. Children whether developmentally delayed or without special needs are all accepted. Preschool is also provided. Therapy services are in house for those in need. Meals and transportation for both adults and children are also provided.

Please consider that we can provide the training/placement/transition that people caught up in Welfare Reform will need. We can keep costs dramatically lowered by already having in place these services. Set up costs, start up costs, building and staff training searches and costs, programs and employment placement contacts are well established. We have an excellent rapport with service agencies and a network of employers who are willing to give our clients an opportunity to work. We can fill in the gaps if given the opportunity to do so at minimum cost.

Monroe County
Human Development Center, Inc.
1116 N. New York • Brinkley, Arkansas 72021 • (501) 734-1155

Sincerely,

Janie Smith
Executive Director

Enclosures

pc on file

NARRATIVE:

For fifty years Welfare has existed as a mandated service. Generations of families have depended on this assistance as a way of life. People in the Delta have depended on it even more. Up to 24% (Arkansas Department of Human Services 12/96) of this area's population are currently on some form of Welfare. Welfare Reform will hit our area especially hard. How do these people who may be illiterate as 1 in 5 in Arkansas are (Arkansas Literacy Council 1990 census), untrained and without skills enter the work force successfully? We believe that we can offer services to provide a continuum of care including networking with other service agencies such as the local Literacy Council Chapter to fill in the gaps that these individuals will experience as Welfare Reform is initiated. Our goal will be a successful transition and competitive employment placement.

A fundamental truth exists: community-based efforts must be the focus for addressing existing job training and related needs and to prevent future gaps. The continuum of care framework recognizes that people in need of training - and current resources and systems to meet those needs - are as different and distinct as the people who live within them. While the continuum of care approach can serve as the catalyst to bring the essential components together (e.g. assessment, coordination of services and facilities, job training sites, literacy training, etc.), only the community - local government, non-profit providers, and others each working together with their own unique expertise and energy - can design a local strategy that works best. There is a wide gap between transitioning from a Welfare recipient to a competitively employed individual. On the job training and experience, child care, literacy training, and transportation are barriers that these individuals face. Our task is to fill these gaps through creative means and with existing and cost effective resources.

KEY ASPECTS OF PROJECT PLAN:

We intend to use existing programs, the new work center, current trained faculty, local network of related services, and existing organization to provide training and coordinate services for Welfare recipients targeted for decreased monies (e.g. food stamps, section 8 housing, AFDC, etc.). Monroe County Human Development Center (MCHDC) also can provide day care and pre-school through state licensed facilities on the work training site premises.

Various assessment tools will be utilized for basic skills (e.g. budgeting, reading, etc.), child care needs, and vocational skills. Training areas provided are office clerk, basic computer use, production and related skills (e.g. assembly, speed, quality control, etc.), lawn maintenance, building maintenance, janitorial, child care and classroom aide. Other training areas may be added depending on the needs of the trainees. Vocational counseling is provided as well as competitive employment placement services and follow along services to ensure success. Transportation and meals are available as needed.

MCHDC has a budget in excess of $500,000.00. We can provide case management and behavioral management services through current trained personnel. The close proximity of related services of mental and physical health, the Department of Human Services, literacy services, concerned citizens, family and friends provides a strong community of support. The local Public Housing Authority is 5 blocks from the center. The complete system is established and capable of handling this additional program.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Obtain permission from the Department of Labor, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation to serve this population.

2. Provide a training regime which consists of a 10 day assessment period and 80 days of work adjustment as is the Rehabilitation Services program.

3. Provide training areas for up to 25 additional people at any given time (for a total of 50 trainees on site at once). Serve upwards of 100% of appropriate Welfare recipients over as many years as is needed and ongoing as long as needed.

4. Serve Monroe, parts of Lee, Woodruff, Prairie, St. Francis and Phillips counties.

5. Provide child care, day care and pre-school services as needed. We currently have 41 slots.

6. Provide coordination of related services (see letters of support).

lence. He was nominated by the Arkansas Emergency Medical Technicians Association.

"I'm real proud of it," Hammons said of the honor when contacted earlier this week. "This is the first time I've received a national award."

medic training in the state of Arkansas.

He is widely credited with pioneering paramedic programs throughout the state, beginning with the program he started at East Arkansas Community College at Forrest City about 20

Hammons was the focus of the most recent newsletter of the Arkansas EMT Association, circulated late last week.

Hammons began practicing medicine in Forrest City in 1972. He continues to maintain a residence in that city.

NATIONAL WINNER ... Dr. E.P. Hammons of Ba Brinkley looks over an article announcing his na emergency medical services. (Argus photo by Mi

Clients band together to get job done

By Michelle Wallace
News Editor

A group of workers are gathered around a long, narrow table cluttered with bins of small plastic balls and still more containers of colored rubber bands.

Heads covered with nets bend over pairs of hands that wrap the bands around the balls, over and over again.

It is a serious production assembly line with little clamor, except for the low voice of Production Manager James Ford as he praises the finished result here and makes a suggestion for a small correction there.

A lone man sits in the back of the room with a set of scales, counting, measuring, and sorting by colors thousands of rubber bands for his fellow workers.

They are cooperating to make a finished product that is a hit all over the country.

They are assembling "Bandy Balls" for Office Max.

The Learning Tree Center clients are doing their new job in a brand new building.

About 20 clients started on the job several days ago in the recently completed work activity/rehabilitation center located next to the center's main facility on North New York Street.

"They love it," said Janie Smith, the center's executive director. "They all have an attitude of 'Let's go to work.'"

"Our goal is to be a normal place, a normal working environment just like every other working place," Smith noted, explaining that the only difference is that Learning Tree workers enjoy more patience from their boss than what is generally allotted on the job.

Employees are now making about 1,000 Bandy Balls a week in the 2,400 square foot production facility, with the goal of spinning out 5,000 a week. They also package their colorful balls and ship them.

ROLLIN' ON ... Dorothy Whitmore of Cotton Plant starts a Bandy Ball by wrapping rubber bands around a rubber ball. (Argus photo by Michelle Wallace)

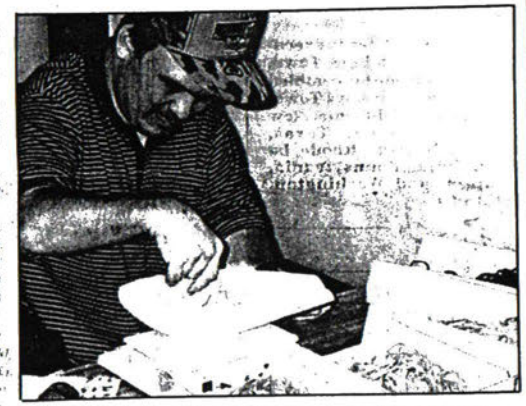
"This gives them a real work environment," Smith said. "We want to hone their skills so they will be job ready."

All labor is manual, Smith explained, with employees being paid 20 cents per piece.

All workers receive a paycheck at the end of the week. "They have a feeling of self worth. It improves their self esteem. They learn the important thing that working is rewarded," she said.

In addition to the product assembly and quality control now going on in the work center, the facility is equipped for plastic injection molding, clamshell package manufacturing, blister pack-

(Please see LEARNING, Page 4)



WEIGHING IN ... Buffy Adams of Clarendon counts, weighs, and sorts rubber bands his fellow workers will use to make Bandy Balls. (Argus photo by Michelle Wallace)

Police dry up area streets with numerous DWI

By Michelle Wallace
News Editor

Brinkley area state troopers were busy keeping the streets safe this weekend. A number of ar-

per hour zone), escape third degree, misuse of driver's license, and criminal impersonation, Hudson said.

Rebecca Caravalho of Hot Springs, who drove Smith away from the police station, bonded later that day on a charge of ob-

Chon Johnson.

Hudson booked Johnson into the Brinkley jail, allowed him to call a bondsman, and left at about 2:40 a.m.

Dispatcher Kristi Coats soon reported to Hudson that Johnson and his girlfriend had left the po-

He and another female in the car were not charged.

The fleeing suspect was finally identified as Shelton Smith, and he was placed in the Brinkley jail under his true identity. Caravalho was also incarcerated. Their vehicle was towed.

Learning ...

(Continued from Page One)

age manufacturing, blister packaging, heat seal packaging, and rapid turnaround.

The center has pending contracts with companies to do this work, Smith noted.

"I knew I wanted to do this the day I walked in here," Smith said. She starting making plans for the construction of the work/rehabilitation center about two years ago. Actual construction on the facility started during the summer of 1996, and was completed at the end of the year.

Not only is the new building being used as a production assembly facility, it is a rehabilitation center for others who do not attend The Learning Tree Center daily.

Any person who is classified as disabled, whether they be asthmatic, dyslexic, or physically handicapped, can receive training and counseling with the rehabilitation program.

"Whatever the problems are that keep them from holding down a job, we work on those," Smith said, explaining that the center coordinates with other agencies like behavioral health services, department of human services, health department, etc., to help participants be job-ready.

Available through the center's rehabilitation program are training in computers, lawn maintenance, and production, and as a receptionist, child care aide, classroom aide, and janitor.

Participants are first tested to determine their interests and vocational strengths, and they are placed in the program accordingly.

Again those involved experience a little more tolerance and patience than is generally found in a working environment. Smith said this is necessary to get persons past whatever is keeping them from being employed, whether it be a drinking problem or any of a number of difficulties.

"Their skills are marketable anywhere," Smith said of those who attend the 90-day program that has been underway since July 1996.

"We've already placed one person with a local child care center," Smith said. Prospects are very good for the five other participants as well, she said.

Anyone who is interested in enrolling can talk with Carolyn Turner of Rehabilitation Services Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Monroe County Department of Human Services. She will be at the Brinkley office on North New Orleans from 9 a.m. to noon.

But Smith is still not satisfied. There is another group The Learning Tree Center wants to help — welfare recipients.

"We are trying to give welfare recipients the opportunity to be here and help more of them get into the job market," she said. "We already have the training. We even have a regular day care here."

She is seeking special permission from the Arkansas Department of Labor for this new venture.

She is enthusiastic about her proposal and thinks it will go over well because of what the center is already set up to offer. She noted that this includes a licensed day care for children with or without special needs, job training, experience, daily living skills, job placement, therapy and counseling, and a network with service agencies and employers willing to put clients to work.

Arrests ...

(Continued from Page One)

Donham said Lavoie is wanted in Las Vegas for assault with a deadly weapon. Nevada authorities are expected to send copies of the warrants and arrange to transport Lavoie to Nevada.

In another matter, Brinkley Police Sgt. Leon Gant and Officer [illegible] and Trooper Donham marker. The vehicle was crossing the center line but not speeding, the trooper said.

The driver of the vehicle would not pull over for the trooper, so Donham requested assistance from city officers Gant and Randle.

The three officers created a rolling road block with their police units, and within minutes Alvarado was stopped on the railroad overpass at the Brinkley exit.

HONORED WITH SHOWER ...

Angie Sheffer of Brinkley was honored with a baby shower Monday, Feb from 6-7:30 p.m. at the fellowship hall of the Brinkley First Baptist Churc Honored guests (from left) are Charlene Morris, great-grandmother of ar to-be; Brenda Bragg, grandmother of arrival-to-be; Angie Sheffer, honor Cindy Sheffer, grandmother of arrival-to-be; and Fern Sheffer, great-grandmother of arrival-to-be. Hostesses for the lovely occasion were Su Banks, Judy Brown, Laurie Curry, Jan Fuller, Dena Gray, Angela Howard Howton, Sandra Kemmer, Bobbie Loewer, Jennifer Martin, Becky Myers, Myers, Tonya Oxner, Lisa Paschal, Sheila Thomas and Donna Wilson. T serving table was draped with a white cloth and white lace overlay. The centerpiece was a fresh pastel arrangement. Refreshments of punch an foods were served. A corsage of baby items was presented to the honor along with the hostess gift of a porta crib. The honoree received many l and useful gifts for the arrival-to-be. (Argus photo by Bobbie Loewer)

Brinkley native is University of Arkansa distinguished alumnu

By Argus press services

At the 52nd Annual University of Arkansas Alumni Awards banquet held recently in Fayetteville recently, Brinkley native Patricia Weis was honored as a distinguished alumnus.

Weis served the women's ath-

entary

r 120 years

ARGUS

l every Wednes-
Inc. at 308 West

kansas; and $35

changes should
gus," P.O. Box

ax: 734-1494.

Argus Staff

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Help the world one person at a time

On a recent visit to our excellent facility, The Learning Tree Center, I realized an important fact: it is possible to improve things by helping one person at a time.

At this amazing place, persons from infants to adults are helped with everything from education to counseling to employment. This wonderful place has not cast anyone aside. All of us would do well to imitate them, both in their acceptance of all persons and their efforts to give each person help that he or she needs.

Each day we are presented with opportunities to help someone, or just a chance to make them feel wanted and cared for. We can pick up something an older lady drops in the waiting room of the doctor's office. We can let a mother with a small child get ahead of us in line at the grocery store. We can stop for a few minutes to listen to the story a youngster is so excited to share. A friend we haven't seen in a while would love to get a little card out of the mailbox from us.

We can season these little acts of kindness with a smile from our hearts — the boost it gives to everyone involved is enough to make us do it again, and again, and again.

Native Perspective

By Michelle Wallace
News Editor

What about the kid walking down the street who isn't wearing a coat? Before thinking how negligent her mother is, it might be wise to wonder whether or not she has a coat. Maybe someone could just give her one.

The same could go for a young fellow who comes to play but ends up making trouble. He may not have had anything to eat all day. Nobody may have taken the time to look at him and ask him how things are going. That just takes a little time, and the rewards could be great, certainly self-satisfying.

Instead of being critical of someone because of something they may not be able to do anything about, it would be better to just find out what the matter is and help if possible. Be willing to give up a few minutes and get involved. Teach them how to help themselves — how to read, how to make a grocery list, how important it is to be tender toward other people.

Helping others one at a time makes all the difference in the world.

(News editor Michelle Wallace's column appears Wednesdays in "The Brinkley Argus.")

Success of recent gun, knife show

4/18/97

From Debbie Schiff

Send to ~~Donskinds~~

Yes ✓

No ____

(coord with CEA/VP)

When Deb brought down she mentioned that the VP might be doing something - C.

'97 APR 18 AM11:04

A FAX FROM TRIED & TRUE MUSIC

P.O. Box 39 Austin, Texas 78767
512-477-0036 Fax 512-477-0095

DATE: April 16

TO: President Bill Clinton c/o Debbie Schiff

COMPANY: The White House

FROM: Jerry Jeff Walker

This is page one of 2 page(s). If you do not receive the entire transmission, please call **512-477-0036**, or fax **512-477-0095**.

RE: The Barton Springs Salamander

REMARKS: Thank you for your attention

ung s.

FOR INFORMATION: T&TM 477-0036, Fax 477-0095

e-mail: jerryjeff@jerryjeff.com **homepage: jerryjeff.com**

April 16, 1997

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

In regard to my earlier faxes regarding the Endangered Species Act and the fate of the Barton Springs Salamander, we are now at the point where U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton has ordered Secretary Bruce Babbitt to reconsider his decision not to list the Barton Springs Salamander as an endangered species. The secretary has until April 25 to comply with the judge's ruling.

Judge Bunton has faulted Secretary Babbitt for missing numerous deadlines relating to the proposed listing.

I am respectfully requesting that you weigh in on this issue with Secretary Babbitt. Listing the Barton Springs Salamander as endangered would be a boon to Central Texans in general, and your Texas Democratic constituents in particular.

Listing the Salamander as endangered would in my estimation help to strengthen the other plans (such as the Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan) which he has striven to enact. Such a listing would be a win-win situation for everyone.

All we are asking is that Secretary Babbitt act in accordance with the law and the existing scientific evidence as regards the Salamander.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,

Jerry Jeff Walker

cc: Vice-President Al Gore

April 18, 1997

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Clinton,

Since 1992, Austin environmentalists have been working to have the rare Barton Springs Salamander declared an endangered species under the act of the same name. Needless to say, this proposal has drawn the opposition of many powerful interests, since such a listing would curtail development over a valuable but fragile part of central Texas.

All scientific data collected by the Interior Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service have pointed to the need to list the Salamander as endangered. But since 1992, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has done everything in his power to avoid such a listing, although his actions have been consistently overruled by the courts.

On March 25, U.S. District U.S. Judge Lucius Bunton issued a demanding that Secretary Babbitt re-evaluate his decision not to list the Salamander as endangered in the face of the existing law and scientific data. Secretary Babbitt now has until April 25 to comply with the judge's order.

At this point, the Secretary does not need more input or surveys; He simply needs to act.

As I am sure you are aware, Tuesday is Earth Day. What a wonderful occasion to make a heroic gesture and list the Barton Springs Salamander as officially endangered.

Listing the Salamander as endangered would be a boon to Central Texas in general, in terms of quality of life and in preserving the health of the delicate Edwards Aquifer. All we are asking is that Secretary Babbitt act in accordance with the law and the existing scientific evidence as regards to this listing.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,

Jerry Jeff Walker

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DATE: 4/18/97

NOTE FOR: The Honorable Richard Riley

The President has reviewed the attached, and it is forwarded to you for your:

Information ☒

Action ☐

Thank you.

Staff Secretary
(x6-2702)

cc:

WORLD EDUCATION LEAGUE

Who's top?

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

Some countries seem to educate their children much better than others. Why? No comprehensive answer has emerged yet but plenty of lessons are being learnt from the tests which reveal the educational discrepancies

A CLASS has 28 students and the ratio of girls to boys is 4:3. How many girls are there? Which of the following is made using bacteria: yogurt, cream, soap or cooking oil? Simple enough questions in any language (the answers, by the way, are 16 and yogurt). But when half a million pupils from around the world were set questions like these, some countries, just like some pupils, did very well and some very badly.

The tests were set for the largest-ever piece of international education research, the Third International Maths and Science Study (TIMSS). Of the 41 nations participating in this first phase, Singapore was teacher's pet: the average scores of its pupils were almost twice those of South Africa, bottom of the class (see table 1).

East Asian countries have overtaken nations such as America and Britain which have had universal schooling for much longer. America came 17th in science and 28th in mathematics. England came 25th in maths and Scotland (whose pupils were tested separately) came 29th. The four richest East Asian economies took the first four places in maths.

Some former communist countries, notably the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Bulgaria, also did significantly better than their richer western neighbours, even though they spend much less on education. Six of the top 15 places in both maths and science went to East Europeans. It seems that how much a country can afford to spend has less than you might think to do with how well educated its children are. American children have three times as much money spent on their schooling as young South Koreans, who nevertheless beat them hands down in tests.

International educational comparisons like the TIMSS study have been subjects of growing academic enthusiasm and criticism since the 1960s (for the controversies, see box on next page). Teachers, though, have been almost entirely hostile and most governments have held themselves aloof from the arguments, fearing embarrassment. A poor showing in the league table would give political opponents ammunition, while the studies might be used to accuse ministers of starving their education system (or, possibly, of wasting taxpayers' money on a grand scale).

Now, attitudes are changing, at least among politicians. Over the past ten years or so, governments' desire to know more about how their schools compare with others, and what lessons can be learned from the comparison, have begun to outweigh fear of embarrassment. More countries took part in TIMSS than in its predecessors, and the attention paid to its findings by the world's politicians, educators and the news media was much greater than for previous studies.

Politicians do their homework

President Clinton described the test in his state-of-the-union message in February, as one "that reflects the world-class standards our children must meet for the new era." America's poor overall showing has sparked calls for the adoption of a national curriculum and national standards for school tests—including from Mr Clinton himself. These calls are based on the observation that the countries which did best in the study tended to have national frameworks of this kind.

In a television interview in December, the French president, Jacques Chirac, described as "shameful" a decision by his education ministry to pull out of an international study of adult literacy which was showing that the French were doing badly. And in Britain last year, Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, brushed aside objections from officials in the Department for Education and Employment, and published the unflattering results of a study he had commissioned comparing British workers with those in France, America, Singapore and Germany—chosen as key economic competitors.

The Germans, in turn, were shocked by their pupils' mediocre performance in the TIMSS tests. Their pupils did only slightly better than the English at maths, coming 23rd out of 41 countries. In science, the English surged ahead (though not the Scots) while the Germans were beaten by, among others, the Dutch, the Russians—and even the Americans. A television network ran a special report called "Education Emergency in Ger-

2+2=? 1

13-year-olds' average score in TIMSS* (Int average =500)

	Maths		Science	
1	Singapore	643	Singapore	607
2	South Korea	607	Czech Republic	574
3	Japan	605	Japan	571
4	Hong Kong	588	South Korea	565
5	Belgium (Fl)	565	Bulgaria	565
6	Czech Republic	564	Netherlands	560
7	Slovakia	547	Slovenia	560
8	Switzerland	545	Austria	558
9	Netherlands	541	Hungary	554
10	Slovenia	541	England	552
11	Bulgaria	540	Belgium (Fl)	550
12	Austria	539	Australia	545
13	France	538	Slovakia	544
14	Hungary	537	Russia	538
15	Russia	535	Ireland	538
16	Australia	530	Sweden	535
17	Ireland	527	United States	534
18	Canada	527	Canada	531
19	Belgium (Wł)	526	Germany	531
20	Thailand	522	Norway	527
21	Israel	522	Thailand	525
22	Sweden	519	New Zealand	525
23	Germany	509	Israel	524
24	New Zealand	508	Hong Kong	522
25	England	506	Switzerland	522
26	Norway	503	Scotland	517
27	Denmark	502	Spain	517
28	United States	500	France	498
29	Scotland	498	Greece	497
30	Latvia	493	Iceland	494
31	Spain	487	Romania	486
32	Iceland	487	Latvia	485
33	Greece	484	Portugal	480
34	Romania	482	Denmark	478
35	Lithuania	477	Lithuania	476
36	Cyprus	474	Belgium (Wł)	471
37	Portugal	454	Iran	470
38	Iran	428	Cyprus	463
39	Kuwait	392	Kuwait	430
40	Colombia	385	Colombia	411
41	South Africa	354	South Africa	326

*Third International Maths and Science Study †Flanders ‡Wallonia
Source: TIMSS

many"; industrialists accused politicians of ignoring repeated warnings about declining standards in schools.

There are more studies to come. In December the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a club of 29 of the world's richest countries, launched its own series of annual reports. The OECD already collects data on how the governments spend their combined $1 trillion annual education budgets, and what proportion of each nation's population reaches a given level of education. The new studies will go much further, comparing how schools, colleges and universities are run in each country and analysing the implications for policymakers.

In some countries, international comparisons are already being used as a catalyst for educational reform. The poor performance of Swedish children in maths, in one study in the mid 1980s, led to the setting up of a new programme of in-service training for teachers. The initial results from TIMSS suggest that Sweden has since pulled itself up to slightly above the international average.

Although Japanese children have repeatedly gained high overall marks in maths tests, some studies have suggested that they are not as advanced in other things, such as analysing data, as they are in basic arithmetic. The Japanese government has started using such findings to reform its national curriculum. Hungary, discovering in early studies that its children were among the world's best in maths and science but among the least literate, ordered its teachers to spend more time on reading.

Knowledge workers

Leaving aside the results of the tests, two main factors lie behind governments' increasing willingness to take part in international education studies to begin with. The first is the growing consensus that education is the key to getting rich—for countries as well as for individuals. It is widely believed that one of the main reasons why tiger economies like Singapore and South Korea have grown so quickly is that their governments have made determined and successful efforts to raise educational standards.

The other factor is value for money. Governments everywhere have woken up to the full economic significance of education just as they are making desperate attempts to rein in public spending. OECD countries already spend about 6% of national income on education; given the pressure to trim budgets there is no prospect that governments will chuck money at schools without checking to see whether standards are improving. Hence the enthusiasm for comparisons. If governments could discover what it is about their education system that helps growth, then perhaps, they hope, they could do better without spending more.

So do the tests help? They do not provide a sure-fire formula of exactly how much should be spent on schools, how schools should be managed and precisely how each subject should be taught.

All the same, the tests are already proving useful, especially for exposing myths. A popularly-held view has it that "opportunity to learn" is the key to educational success—ie, the more time children spend on a

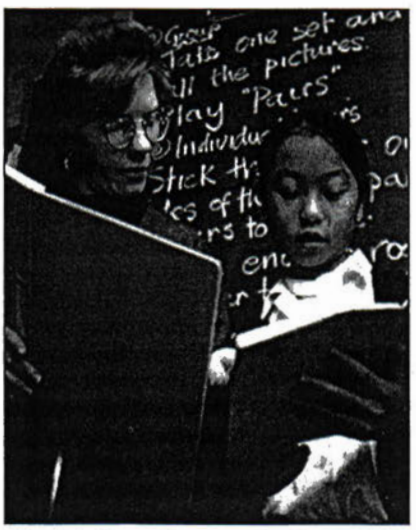
Answering the critics

CROSS-COUNTRY comparisons have long been controversial. Among the doubts: Do tests put an unwarranted premium on certain qualities—speed of recall, mental arithmetic—while ignoring hard-to-measure ones like creative thinking? Were pupils from different countries really comparable? (For instance, in countries where children are made to repeat a year of their education if they fail to reach a certain standard, tests for, say, 13-year-olds may exclude those who have been sent to join a class of 12-year-olds.) Were pupils in some countries told that the tests were extremely important, while others were not? Did the tests give an unfair advantage to countries whose curriculum for 13-year-olds happens to include more of the topics included in them?

Wendy Keys of Britain's National Foundation for Educational Research, one of the bodies that organised the TIMSS project, says that a number of measures were taken to answer such criticisms. The score for each country was adjusted to take account of any pupils who were held back a year. Teachers everywhere were given precise instructions on how to explain the tests to pupils, and independent monitors were sent to schools chosen at random. After the results were in, experts in each country looked at how their pupils had done on those questions which most closely matched the curriculum for children of their age.

The results? Broadly, the new study confirmed the relative positions of countries which had taken part in earlier studies. That consistency suggested the original criticisms may have been exaggerated. However, the refinements made in the recent study may overturn one of the theories that has been used to explain why America and Britain, in spite of having had universal education for longer than most nations, do so poorly. This is that they contain an unusually large proportion of pupils who perform very badly. The comforting implication would be that ordinary pupils do reasonably well but that average scores are dragged down by a so-called "long tail of low achievers".

This explanation was given a colour of plausibility by earlier tests. In those, mediocre scores in Britain and America could be explained away by the failure of the tests to take account of countries where pupils are held back a year. The new version of the test puts that problem right—and the two countries are still doing poorly. Though the mass of results from TIMSS is still being analysed, Dr Keys says there is no sign so far of the "long tail". The implication would be that the average scores of American and British pupils are mediocre because average performance is mediocre, and not because of some peculiarity at the very bottom of the class.



Much to learn from each other

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 4-18-97

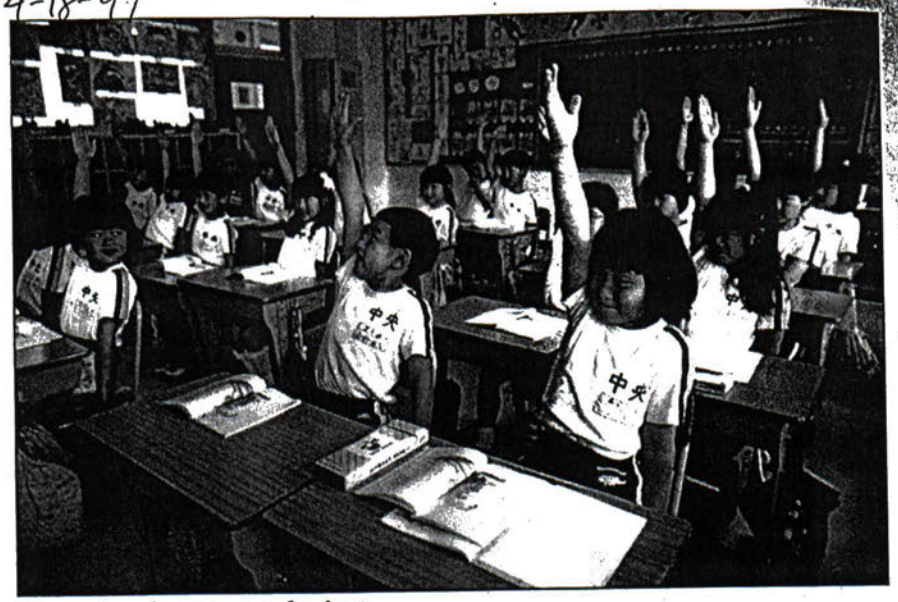
subject, the better they do at it. Alas, the evidence so far is not encouraging for the proponents of this theory. Taking the twelve countries which both took part in TIMSS and also had their average teaching hours measured in the OECD's recent study of school management, there seems little correlation between time spent on a subject and performance of pupils in tests (see chart 2). Young Austrians spend exceptionally long hours on maths and science lessons; for them, it pays off in higher test scores. But so do New Zealand's teenagers—and they do not do any better than, say, Norwegians, who spend an unusually short time on lessons in both subjects.

Next—and of particular interest to cash-strapped governments—there appears to be little evidence to support the argument, often heard from teachers' unions, that the main cause of educational under-achievement is under-funding. Low-spending countries such as South Korea and the Czech Republic are at the top of the TIMSS league table. High-spenders such as America and Denmark do much worse (see chart 3). Obviously, there are dozens of reasons other than spending why one country does well, another badly, but the success of the low-spending Czechs and Koreans does show that spending more on schools is not a prerequisite for improving standards.

Another article of faith among the teaching profession—that children are bound to do better in small classes—is also being undermined by educational research. As with other studies, TIMSS found that France, America and Britain, where children are usually taught in classes of twenty-odd, do significantly worse than East Asian countries where almost twice as many pupils are crammed into each class. Again, there may be social reasons why some countries can cope better with large classes than others. All the same, the comparison refutes the argument that larger is necessarily worse.

Further, the tests even cast some doubt over the cultural explanation for the greater success of East Asia: that there is some hard-to-define Asian culture, connected with parental authority and a strong social value on education, which makes children more eager to learn and easier to teach. Those who make this argument say it would of course be impossible to replicate such oriental magic in the West.

Yet the results of TIMSS suggest that this is, to put it mildly, exaggerated. If "culture" makes English children so poor at maths, then why have they done so well at science (not far behind the Japanese and South Koreans)? And why do English pupils do well at science and badly at maths, while in France it is the other way around? A less mystical, more mundane explanation suggests itself: English schools teach science well and maths badly; French schools teach maths better than science; East Asian schools teach both subjects well.



Please sir, why are we so brainy?

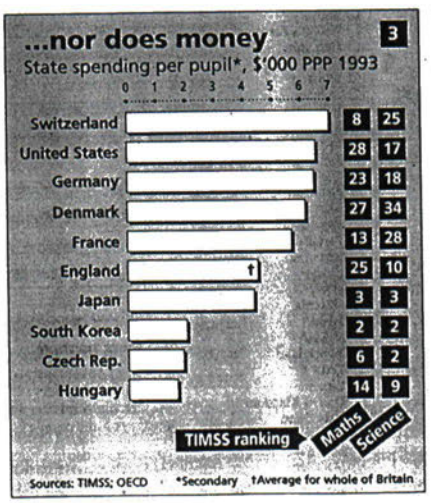
Apart from casting doubt on some widely-held beliefs, do international comparisons have anything constructive to say? So far, the conclusions are tentative, but some answers are emerging.

Teaching the teachers

As well as getting pupils to sit tests, the TIMSS researchers monitored the way lessons were taught in each country. Eventually this should point to which teaching method tends to be most successful, though the data are still being worked on. Meanwhile, other researchers have been searching for common factors among those countries whose schools seem to turn out well-educated pupils.

Julia Whitburn of Britain's National Institute of Economic and Social Research has studied the way maths is taught in Japan and Switzerland, two countries which are different in many ways but whose pupils seem to do consistently well at in the subject. She noted a number of common factors:

- Much more time is spent on the basics of arithmetic than on more general mathematical topics such as handling data;
- Pupils learn to do sums in their heads before they are taught to do them on paper; calculators are usually banned;
- Standardised teaching manuals, which are tested extensively in schools before being published, are used widely;
- A method known as "whole-class interactive teaching" is used widely. The teacher addresses the whole class at once, posing questions to pupils in turn, to ensure they are following the lesson. American and British schools have been criticised for letting pupils spend much of their time working in small groups, with the teacher rushing from one group to the next to see how they are doing. Ms Whitburn notes that in Japan and Switzerland this method is only used in teaching arts and crafts;
- Finally, great efforts are made to ensure that pupils do not fall behind. Those that do are given extra coaching.



Learning, though, is not a one-way street. Just as western countries are busy seeking to emulate Japanese schools, schools and universities in Japan are coming under pressure from employers to turn out workers with the sort of creativity and individuality that the Japanese associate with western education. And just as American and British politicians are demanding that schools copy their more successful oriental counterparts and set their pupils more homework, the South Korean government is telling schools to give pupils regular homework-free days, so they can spend more time with their families—just like western children. Perhaps in education there is such a thing as a happy medium.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 4/18

To: Colyn Davies

From: The Staff Secretary

Kathy Higgins has recommended the attached letter to Secy Cohen with a cc: to Dorn. (See POTUS' note). Agree with that? and with letter. Let me know. Thanks
Rob

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1997

The Honorable William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Cohen:

I read with interest Under Secretary Dorn's follow-up report on the issues and problems still facing the families of those who died in the crash of Ron Brown's plane. Clearly, a great deal has been done in the last year to address the financial concerns facing these families. But it will take much longer for the families to come to terms with their loss. I urge you and your team to continue to support and assist the families in every possible way over the coming months.

Please keep me informed of your work and their progress.

Sincerely,

4/4/97

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-3-97

TDS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 2, 1997

JIM DORSKIND

Please coordinate the reply.

Coordinate w/ Higgins

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: **KITTY HIGGINS**

SUBJECT: **Support for Families of Ron Brown's Delegation**

Under Secretary of Defense, Ed Dorn, prepared the attached memo in response to concerns you raised earlier about the benefits and assistance provided to those who lost family and loved ones in the Secretary's plane crash.

Families of the federal employees killed (DoD, Commerce, Treasury, CIA) have been compensated from one or more of the following sources:

- A $10,000 death benefit
- Monthly benefits for survivors and dependents of both the civilian and DoD employees
- $20,000 in accidental death insurance for eleven government employees who paid for their tickets with a government American Express card

The families of the private citizens and Croatian nationals are eligible for payments under the Military Claims Act. Eight claims have been filed to date. Six other claims are expected.

DoD continues to meet regularly with the families and is working with DOT, NTSB and others to address a number of additional concerns.

called Liz Tobey
67072

left msg 4/8
" " 4/9

Copied
Higgins
Dorskind
COS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Support for the Families of the T-43 Tragedy

This memorandum provides additional information on support for the families of those killed in the T-43 crash in Croatia and responds to your comment on my February 3 memorandum: "Surely there is more we can do, especially on the red tape and insurance/claims problems."

Red Tape

A. DoD. We recognize that we have a special obligation to all of the families because the tragedy involved a government aircraft. From the time of the crash and continuing to the present, the Department of Defense, acting primarily through the Air Force, has undertaken an extensive effort to communicate with the families and to assist them through the maze of benefits and other issues. Specific steps include:

(1) A 24-hour information desk with a 1-800 number immediately following the crash.

(2) The ceremony at Dover AFB.

(3) Designation of family liaisons.

(4) Frequent correspondence with the families to answer questions about the crash, the investigation, improvements undertaken by the Air Force, and procedures for obtaining benefits and submitting claims.

(5) Personal briefings of the families by Air Force officers, who visited with each family to discuss the results of the accident investigation and provide copies of the entire report.

(6) Transportation of the families to Andrews AFB at their request to have follow-on questions answered by the investigators and functional experts. The Air Force also provided lodging.

(7) I met with many of the families on February 2, 1997, and have also met with individual families and had numerous telephone conversations. I have scheduled my next meeting with many of the families for April 3, 1997.

B. Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce designated employees to act as liaisons to the families of Commerce employees who were crash victims, and those designated liaisons have had extensive personal contacts with the families over the last year.

Insurance/Claims

The Air Force has the lead within DoD for processing benefits and claims of families of DoD military personnel and private individuals. Within the Air Force, the responsible agency for the claims of private citizens is the Tort Claims and Litigation Division of the Air Force Legal Services Agency. The benefits for families whose loved ones served in other agencies (Commerce, CIA, and Treasury) are being handled by those agencies. Benefits have been paid and claims are being processed under various statutory schemes.

A. U.S. Government Personnel.

(1) The families of U.S. Government civilian personnel have received monetary death benefits, and spouses and dependents are now receiving monthly payments under the Federal Employees Compensation Act, a statutory formula that is similar to workers compensation. Specific benefits depend on salary and number of dependents. For example, the spouse of a GS-15 employee with two dependent children would receive approximately $4,593 per month. Commerce, Treasury and CIA assisted the families of their employees with their entitlements.

(2) After the crash, Congress retroactively increased the death benefit for civilian Government employees to $10,000.

(3) The Air Force persuaded American Express to pay $200,000 in accidental death insurance to families of 11 Government employees who paid for the trip with a Government AMEX card (despite an exclusion in the AMEX policy for military aircraft, such as Secretary Brown's plane, not assigned to Air Mobility Command).

(4) The families of the military personnel also received monetary death benefits, and spouses and dependents receive monthly benefits under a statutory formula for the military. For example, the spouse of a military member receives approximately $810 per month, plus $205 per month per child under 18.

(5) In sum, families of DoD personnel have been receiving their benefits since last year; Commerce and CIA families, we understand, also have received their benefits. We further understand that the family of one Treasury employee received all benefits except for the increase in the death benefit, which has now been approved.

B. Private Citizens. Families of non-Government personnel are entitled to payments under the Military Claims Act. To date, of the 13 U.S. private citizens, families of seven filed claims; representatives of five other families have contacted Air Force officials for preliminary assistance. The Air Force is assisting the families through the Military Claims Act process by advising the families or their lawyers about the specific type of information needed to evaluate their claims. Four of the families have submitted enough information that the Air Force expects to begin settlement discussions with them in April. We anticipate that the families who make claims under the Military

Claims Act will likely receive large payments. In addition, claims have been received from the family of one Croatian killed in the crash and from the employer of the second Croatian.

Improvements in the Process

We are all learning from this tragedy. Several significant steps should be taken:

A. As the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security concluded, the Government as a whole needs "a better coordinated and more compassionate response" to aircraft disasters. DoD is working with the Department of Transportation and the NTSB to implement this and other Commission recommendations, including recommendations for DOT to coordinate the development of plans for responding to aviation disasters involving civilians on government aircraft and for implementation of the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996.

B. DoD is working with the NTSB to identify ways DoD can provide assistance in civilian aircraft crashes. For example, we have extensive experience in examining remains, as was done in Dover after the T-43 crash, to determine identity and cause of death, and we can provide expert offshore search and recovery assistance, as was done after the TWA crash.

C. Victims' families should have an advocate within the Government. The Commission recommended that each agency designate an individual to coordinate the provision of support to families. The support the military services provide the families of deceased members may be a helpful model. We need to stay in touch with families over the longer term, to help them cope with the several stages of grief.

In closing, I know that the families were very touched by the personal concern and sympathy demonstrated by you and Mrs. Clinton. Your involvement has helped them enormously through the grieving process.

Very respectfully,

Edwin Dorn

Attachment: Detailed Point Paper

CT-43 CRASH

ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES OF VICTIMS

I. Initial Department of Defense Assistance to all Families

- Recovery of remains and funeral arrangements. Air Force:
  - -- Located and transported remains from crash site to Dover AFB for identification and preparation of remains.
  - -- Notified next-of-kin (NOK) of military decedents and worked with other agencies to arrange for notification of NOK of others.
  - -- Arranged memorial service at Dover AFB, paid for transportation and lodging of all NOK, assigned Escort Officers for each family.
  - -- Provided for transportation of remains to funeral home chosen by NOK and shipped personal property and effects to NOK.
- Continuing contacts with families.
  - -- Air Force sent condolence letters and follow-up letters on the status of the crash investigation to NOK.
  - -- Air Force established a family information desk with 800 telephone number to respond to family questions.
  - -- After investigation was completed, each family received a personal briefing and a copy of the report (22 volumes, 7173 pages).
  - -- Air Force invited all families (22 of 35 accepted) to a joint meeting at Andrews AFB on July 12, 1996; provided all transportation and lodging; President of Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (Maj Gen Coolidge) and functional experts briefed and answered questions.
  - -- Air Force has continued to respond to questions from families.
  - -- White House designated Mr Edwin Dorn, Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), to serve as continuing point of contact for NOK.

II. Investigation

- Aircraft Accident Investigation Board, including National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) members, conducted thorough, eight-week investigation.
  - -- More than two dozen civilian and military technical experts assisted the Board.
  - -- Board conducted 150 interviews and obtained over 3200 pages of testimony.
  - -- Board conducted extensive analyses of airborne and ground-based radio magnetic tapes and of the aircraft's instrumentation.
- Board found three causes of accident: failure of command, aircrew error, and improperly designed instrument approach procedure for Dubrovnik airport.
- Results briefed individually to families; copies of entire report provided to each family.

III. Compensation and Death Benefits of Civilian Government Employees

- Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA).
  - — This Federal Statute is similar to many state Worker's Compensation laws.
  - -- The law provides that FECA is the exclusive remedy against the U.S.; NOK cannot sue U.S.
  - -- Prior to recent new legislation that expanded benefits (discussed below), FECA payments for burial expenses covered embalming, casket, and transportation of body plus up to $800 for funeral expenses.
  - -- FECA pays $200 for cost of termination of decedents' status as an employee.
  - -- FECA monthly tax-free compensation.
    - --- Designed primarily for surviving spouses and dependent children.
    - --- If no spouse or child, parents, grandparents, siblings, and grandchildren are covered if they were dependent on the deceased.
    - --- Amounts are based on a percentage of the employee's pay; spouse receives 50%, spouse with dependent children receives 45% plus 15% per child up to 75%; e.g., spouse with two children of GS-15, step 1 in Washington D.C. area would receive $4,593 per month.

-- For dependent parents, grandparents, siblings, and grandchildren, the degree of dependency also affects the percentages.

- American Express Insurance.

  -- Government employees who use the American Express (AMEX) credit card to purchase airline tickets are covered by $200,000 accidental death insurance, but there is an exclusion if death occurred on a military aircraft other than an Air Mobility Command (AMC) aircraft.

  -- Eleven of the twelve Commerce employees used their AMEX card.

  -- Initially AMEX did not pay because the CT-43 was assigned to United Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) rather than to AMC.

  -- Based on information provided by the Air Force demonstrating that the mission of the 86th Wing (which owned the CT-43) had not changed when it was transferred from AMC to USAFE, AMEX has now approved claims of 8 NOK of Commerce employees who have submitted claims.

- Life insurance under Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance is available for purchase; coverage may vary.

- Thrift saving plan contributions and retirement contributions (unless a survivor annuity has been elected) are paid to designated survivors.

- Pay due and payments for unused annual leave are paid to designated survivors.

- Payments are made for loss of personal property incident to service, such as belongings on the CT-43.

- New death gratuity legislation in Fiscal Year 1997 Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act.

  -- Legislation covers government employees who died in the line of duty after August 2, 1990.

  -- Agency heads may pay a death gratuity in an amount up to $10,000, when combined with FECA burial payment ($800) and payment for termination of status as an employee ($200).

  -- For NOK of CT-43 victims this could result in additional payments of approximately $9,000 per family.

-- Department of Commerce has made payments.

- Various Department of Commerce charitable efforts are underway.

- Department of Commerce has worked with the families on appropriate memorials.

IV. Compensation and Death Benefits for Military Members

- Litigation against the U.S. is barred by a Supreme Court case (Feres).

- Death gratuity of $6,000 is paid to NOK.

- Burial expenses are either paid by the Air Force or reimbursed to the family up to $4,850.

- Dependency and indemnity compensation is paid to a surviving spouse of $810 per month plus $205 per month per child under 18 and $166 per month per child between 18 and 23 who is a full-time student.

- Life insurance of up to $200,000 under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance is available for purchase.

- Pay due and payments for unused leave are paid to designated survivors.

- Payments are made for loss of personal property incident to service, such as belongings on the CT-43.

- Social security benefits are provided to a surviving spouse who is caring for dependent children under 16 and to dependent children until age 18 (19 if in a secondary school).

- Rent free government housing or tax-free Basic Allowance for Quarters is available for 180 days after member's death.

- Education assistance of $404 per month is available for a surviving spouse and children for 45 months.

- Health care and commissary and exchange privileges are available for unremarried surviving spouses and qualified dependents.

- No income tax is payable for year of death if death occurred in a combat zone.

V. Rights of U.S. Citizen Business Leaders and Media Representative

- Cannot sue the U.S. under the Federal Tort Claims Act because the claim arose in a foreign country.

- The Military Claims Act permits NOK to file claims to be adjudicated by the Air Force.

  -- Air Force may approve payments up to $100,000 per claimant, and refer amounts over $100,000 to GAO for payment.

VI. Rights of Foreign Inhabitants

- Foreign inhabitants are covered by the Foreign Claims Act, which is similar to the Military Claims Act discussed above.

VII Disciplinary Actions

- General Ryan, Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE), took action against 17 officers, as indicated below.

  -- Brigadier General William E. Stevens

    --- Former Commander, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

    --- Relieved of Command by 17th Air Force Commander.

    --- Received punishment under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, for dereliction of duty.

  -- Colonel John E. Mazurowski

    --- Former Commander, 86th Operations Group, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

    --- Relieved of command by 17th Air Force Commander.

    --- Received punishment under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, for dereliction of duty.

  -- Major General Jeffery G. Cliver

    --- Former Director of Operations, HQ, U.S. Air Forces Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

    --- Received a written letter of reprimand.

  -- Colonel Roger W. Hansen

    --- Former Vice Commander, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

    --- Relieved of duties by 17th Air Force Commander.

--- Received a written letter of reprimand.

- In addition, twelve other officers received adverse actions (Letters of Admonishment and counseling). The names of these individuals and the specific actions taken against them have not been made public because of Privacy Act concerns.

AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM

Samuel Halperin
Glenda Partee
Co-Directors

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

Gene S/Maria E
Pls advise --
Reich an important program
I want it to work
Would be glad to do quick
event - but need to get
Administration right
BC

11 April 1997

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Hillary:

I write to share my views about the current status and future of the School-to-Career movement. These observations are based on years of visiting programs and practitioners coast-to-coast.

Despite the media-celebrated cooperation between Robert Reich and Dick Riley, all is far from well within the working levels of the Executive Branch. The National School to Work Office is starved for DoL and DoE resources to properly execute its functions. The exceptionally able director, J.D. Hoye, is second-guessed and hobbled from above in the exercise of her responsibilities. The feeling of the STW Office staff -- and much of the field -- is that the Clinton Administration's visionary initiative may well fall prey to being "just another program," resented by many vocational educators and many in the Department of Labor's employment and training arena as a "competitor" for scarce resources. Since the legislation is to sunset in a few years, there is a real danger that, in most school districts, the promise of School-to-Career will evaporate without a trace.

That is why the Administration's selection of a new Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training is so critical to the future of the School-to-Career movement. Unless the new appointee is thoroughly committed to the success of this Administration initiative, even the scant progress to date may be lost.

I hope that **Paul Cole**, Secretary-Treasurer of the New York State AFL-CIO and a Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers, is considered for the DoL assistant secretaryship. I have worked with Paul on the Jobs for the Future "Youth Apprenticeship Initiative" and have come to see him as a thoroughly dedicated educator, committed to school-to-career as a powerful lever to advance comprehensive, high standards school reform. As an able teacher, Paul would work to ease some of the antagonisms in the Department of Labor toward the Department of Education's educators and educational programs. Well-acquainted

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with European workforce preparation systems and the work of the National Center for Education and the Economy, Paul would insist upon rigorous quality not only in school-to-career grants but in all the manifold tasks of the Employment and Training Administration. I believe, in sum, that he would be a great asset to Secretary Herman and to the Clinton Administration.

If your schedule ever permits, I urge you to have a conversation with Miss J.D. Hoye (401-6209, who does not know that I am writing). You will learn a great deal from one of the stars of the Administration and get an unequaled view of what is happening -- or not happening -- to school reform in the spirit of the School-to-Work Opportunities Act.

Sincerely,

Sam

Samuel Halperin

EDUCATION WEEK · MARCH 12, 1997

COMMENTARY

School-to-Work, Employers, And Personal Values

By Samuel Halperin

Observations From Overseas Study Missions

If its critics are to be believed, the fledgling American school-to-work movement is a nefarious plot by Big Government, abetted by willful or unwitting industrialists, to control the academic content of learning and dictate the occupational futures of American youths. What's more, opponents from both extremes of the political spectrum contend, our schoolchildren are in danger of becoming pawns in a computer-driven national labor-market information system that will funnel them into whatever jobs the economy needs filled.

This Orwellian prospect flies in the face of compelling success stories from many school-to-work programs here, as well as from long-standing efforts in other democracies. On both sides of the Atlantic, there is a healthy blending of school-based learning and hands-on exposure to the world of work. School-to-work champions can muster persuasive evidence that experience in actual workplaces, and not just classroom instruction, helps young people acquire essential job skills along with the habits of thought and behavior that underlie them.

Instead of regarding school-to-work efforts as key elements of genuine school reform, critics from the political right see a government-directed scheme to control the minds, the values, and ultimately the occupations and earnings of American workers—all of which will allegedly subordinate family values to the imperatives of the economy. For its part, too, the anti-capitalist political left envisages generations of human automatons and worker bees, brainwashed to serve the needs of corporate capitalism in cahoots with government bureaucracies. No longer capable of independent thought and self-realization, our young people are to become little more than cogs in the nation's industrial and economic machinery.

The gap between these baleful predictions and ground-level reality came into sharp focus during recent study missions to Europe and Israel. There, as we are beginning to see in the United States, enlightened businesses and supportive government policies are enabling young people to experience the best of both worlds: high-quality academic learning and practical experience in the workplace that reinforces classroom study.

Several relevant examples demonstrate persuasively that critics from both sides of the political spectrum are plain wrong.

At ABB (Asea Brown Boveri) in Baden, Switzerland, high-school-age apprentices in the giant Swiss-Swedish engineering firm study in a state-approved and partially state-financed high school located on the factory's premises. When American visitors asked what qualities are essential for success in the workplace and in nonworking life, ABB student responses included: *personal competence, self-discipline, independence, creativity (imagination and problem-solving), team effort (social competence, solidarity, communication skills), flexibility, focus on satisfying the needs of customers and colleagues, honesty, and loyalty.*

In Zurich, we met with trainers and graduates of the youth-apprenticeship program of the Union Bank of Switzerland. Like its industrial neighbor ABB, this leading Swiss bank has been "training" student workers for over 125 years. What kinds of skills and values does UBS look for in admission to, and completion of, its four-year program? The composite response from both trainer-coaches and graduates: *self-initiative, effective team player, ability to concentrate, decision-making ability, communication skills, flexibility, professional appearance, good grades in secondary school, staying power, enjoying people.* At a cost to the Union Bank of Switzerland of as much as $23,000 per apprentice per year, over and above what the state pays for secondary education, the apprenticeship program enjoys high prestige with students, parents, and the public at large. (Here, as elsewhere in Europe, requests for enrollment are often triple or more the number of available slots, especially in the more competitive professions.) Moreover, the trend is to ever higher job qualifications, more postsecondary academic specialization, and systematic follow-up through advanced learning opportunities. Indeed, there is now talk in the financial-services industry of creating a "University for Applied Science."

At the Julius Blum firm, a precision manufacturer of

School-To-Work And Values

Continued from Page 52

cabinet hardware in Bregenz, Austria, the company's training philosophy is exemplified by two mottoes: "Never underestimate the capabilities of our youth. Rather, find out what they are, and utilize them in helping to create a successful adult" and "A positive role model is the best way to form a young mind."

Blum's 22 full-time and 11 part-time trainers serve the needs of 130 apprentices who, while completing their fourth year of combined schooling and on-the-job

Continued on Page 38

Samuel Halperin is a co-director of the American Youth Policy Forum in Washington and a former president of the Institute for Educational Leadership. He was the deputy assistant secretary for legislation in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare during the Johnson Administration.

learning at age 19 or 20, earn up to $1,700 a month. Students are offered free Saturday-morning tutoring, a physical-fitness program, and first-aid instruction, as well as bonuses for "personality development" (for example, $10 monthly for not smoking, $15 for "proper conduct" in auto traffic). Unlike other youth-apprenticeship programs, Blum's downplays a written contract defining roles for students, parents, and employer. The entire relationship, believes the firm, is built instead on mutual trust. Without trust, no contract is enforceable.

In the city of Bregenz's employer-backed public high school, where many of the apprentices study, and in Blum's own training center, students work on state-of-the-art equipment because, as the firm's educational director says, "We want our students to have the very best technology; if the equipment in the plant is better than in the schools, they will look down on schools." Far from being deprived of independence and personal autonomy, students take from the company's value system the message that "the computer shouldn't be smarter than the computer operator; faster, not smarter." Like other firms we visited, Blum's leaders practice what they preach: "Smart workers are our best asset."

Overall, the Austrian manufacturer has graduated more than 500 students, with only one dropout. The firm has recently opened a high school apprenticeship program with neighboring companies based on the tech-prep curriculum at its U.S. plant in Stanley, N.C. It will be interesting to see whether the same high standards and performance can be successfully transplanted in the New World.

At three middle-sized Austrian firms—world-famous crystal manufacturer Swarovski in Wattens, Zumtobel Lighting in Dornbirn,

Rob Colvin

ski-lift and car-park manufacturer Doppelmayer in Wolfurt—and their cooperating high schools, we met industrialists who, while under financial pressure to reduce costs, proudly told us that their investment in apprenticeship and their adherence to national standards substantially exceeded the minimum requirements arrived at in negotiations with the central government and local authorities—and that the added cost was well worth it.

For these firms, and others we visited in Europe and Israel, success in quality export markets is essential to survival. They know training is expensive, but believe it is the only way they can compete and win in world markets.

In the classrooms of schools associated with these and other employers, we never once observed the bars, metal detectors, or graffiti so common in American high schools. On the contrary, schools were characterized by quiet corridors and students absorbed in their work. Moreover, it was clear that what Europeans call "environmental responsibility" is widespread in the schools. Students are responsible for the cleanliness of their schools, for recycling, and for energy conservation.

> In the classrooms of schools associated with these employers, we never once observed the bars, metal detectors, or graffiti so common in American high schools.

When asked whether they would prefer either more time in classrooms and less in the plants, or more in the plants and less in schools, Austrian and German students, to our surprise, complained mildly about the heavy demands placed on them, but argued strongly that the present mix of experiences was the right one.

In Israel, as in much of Western Europe, high-tech industrial exports are literally the lifeblood of the society. There, the Manufacturers Association of Israel, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, has embarked on an ambitious program to expose all Israeli students to "Think Industry," an interdisciplinary educational project teaching "entrepreneurship and industrial thinking." Seven Think Industry curricula have been developed for grades 1-12 in both Hebrew and Arabic. School classes are also brought to five employer-supported regional centers, where students mingle with industry mentors and perform hands-on experiments with state-of-the-art teaching equipment.

And just what is the "industrial thinking" that Israeli manufacturers seek to inculcate in the young? In the words of the curriculum, it includes: "education for values—work, responsibility, precision, openness to criticism, professionalism, and a constant quest for quality."

"These values are to be achieved," the curriculum goes on to say, "by teaching teamwork and interpersonal communication ... thinking skills—creative thinking, inventive thinking, logical thinking, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities ... learning skills—the ability to acquire basic knowledge, to build on existing knowledge, and to access new sources of information ... connecting the student to real-life situations ... intertwining thinking, values, and knowledge ... teaching entrepreneurship—taking the initiative to develop new products and marketing strategies, to identify problems and find original solutions for them."

What is interesting and compelling about the educational and training values embodied in both European and Israeli high-tech firms is how similar they are to each other, and to the kind of combined academic rigor, practical work experience, and continuous-learning values promoted by the best U.S. school-to-work programs.

In all these countries and industries, we found no instance of employer or governmental interest in narrow training for mind-numbing, repetitious, automaton-like employment. On the contrary, what most impresses the American observer is the extent to which leading European and Israeli employers and curriculum specialists seek to develop individuals who are much more than skilled workers—who are creative thinkers and problem-solvers, able to cope in a stressful, fast-changing world.

While Americans seem to feel that values are the exclusive province of family, church, and schools, Europeans practice the belief that work and the workplace can also contribute powerfully to the development of autonomous and effective human beings. All of this is done in a spirit of partnership with the schools, which teach not only theoretical science and mathematics, but also a substantial load of social sciences, humanities, and, in the case of central Europe, virtually mandatory courses in religion, with a heavy emphasis on getting along with others in an increasingly diverse society.

To be sure, this level of employer involvement and leadership developed over many years. Yet the fact that it happened is encouraging for all who believe that schools and employers can work together to produce high schools that work, future employees with impressive skills, and, most important, the kind of young people whose personal values the critics on the political left and

Eugene H. Methvin

Cops Do Matter

Robert
good piece!

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

In the past two years, a fierce debate has raged among criminologists and sociologists over the sharp drop in crime in New York City. The consequences for the rest of the nation are large. Demographers point out that we will have a big increase in teenagers in the next decade, and if past experience holds, that means a big increase in crime. But many sociologists and criminologists point to New York as evidence we can stop the coming crime epidemic before it happens.

Others argue, as does Richard Moran, a professor of sociology and criminology at Mount Holyoke College, that New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his former police commissioner, William Bratton, have "seized credit" for their anti-crime strategies while "the weight of the evidence suggests that the mayor and his commissioner were simply in the right place at the right time" ["New York Story: More Luck Than Policing," Outlook, Feb. 9].

Crime was headed down anyway, in Moran's view, as a result of "an improving economy . . . and most importantly, the waning of the murderous crack wars." He contends the New York decline is part of a general nationwide trend that extends to cities that did not adopt new policing practices.

Moran's Exhibit A: "East St. Louis, Ill., one of the most economically depressed cities in America, experienced a 60 percent decline in the homicide rate over the same period, from 67 homicides in 1991 to 27 in 1996. During this time no new police practices were introduced. Rather, East St. Louis was so deep in debt that police layoffs were common. Most police cars did not have functioning two-way radios, and many remained idle due to the lack of money for gas. Nonetheless, proportionately the homicide rate declined more dramatically in East St. Louis than it did in New York City."

The professor's portrayal of East St. Louis is simply wrong. His description of the police department was accurate only for the late 1980s. But in November 1991 the voters turned out their inept mayor, Carl Officer, and chose Gordon D. Bush, who vowed a war on crime.

Federal and state agencies that had shunned the old regime increased aid sharply. Police Chief Isadore Chambers was able to increase his force from 68 officers in 1991 to 98 in 1996—all equipped with new portable radios. He instituted new training standards, and started an Explorer program in which youths 14 to 20 work alongside his cops. The police cruiser fleet went from 35 in 1991 to 73. One federal-state grant funded new anti-drug operations. Another provided six specially trained investigators and prosecutors to clear up a backlog of unsolved homicides.

The U.S. Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing (COPS)

Taking Exception

program alone added 18 new officers. The U.S. attorney launched a "Violent Crimes Initiative" that combined FBI, BATF, DEA, the Marshall's Service, the Illinois attorney general, State Police, St. Clair County prosecutor and sheriff, and other agencies in a coordinated anti-crime assault. The State Police stepped up activity, focusing on the public housing projects and other crime hot spots. The city and county started demolishing derelict houses that sheltered drug dealers.

This concentrated law enforcement offensive did cut the homicide rate dramatically, from 162 to 65 per 100,000 population. It was not due to some mysterious national trend or waning of the crack epidemic, however. Just as happened in New York, East St. Louis's voters got fed up and its lawmen got busy.

Unlike Prof. Moran, many criminologists have come to at least a hesitant willingness to say, yes, the police made a big difference in New York in 1994-96. One fact stands out: The decline in serious crimes in New York City's five boroughs under the reinvigorated NYPD in 1996 accounted for 70 percent of the total decline in serious crimes in the entire United States.

The man who sparked this stunning accomplishment, former commissioner William Bratton, told his cops, "For years the common wisdom advanced by criminologists, sociologists and many politicians was that police can't be expected to have much effect on crime. Big increases or decreases are supposed to result from economic, demographic or social forces beyond the control of any police department. A lot of police professionals accepted this idea, partly because it got us off the hook. We couldn't be blamed for a sudden crime surge caused by social forces. But the idea also demeaned police. It seemed to say that no matter how dedicated, skilled, well-trained and well-organized cops are, we really can't do our job.

"We've proved that police can make American communities safer. We've proved it not in some small town or mid-sized city, but in the largest, most complex city in the nation. If police can cut crime by double digits in New York City, they can do it anywhere."

University of Maryland criminology professor Lawrence W. Sherman agrees: "For twenty years many criminologists have urged that police target each crime with tactics specifically designed to drive them down. But New York is the first city to do it on a really big scale. Giuliani and Bratton have led a revolution. The result is that a lot of police departments are scrambling to copy New York's tactics."

The sooner they do so the better.

The writer is a Washington-based Reader's Digest contributing editor who has reported on police and courts for many years.

George F. Will

A Little More Respect for Man

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VIERA, Fla.—His spikes echoing in the concrete runway under the stands, Jim Leyland heads for the field, a fungo bat in one hand and a Marlboro in the other. He is basic baseball, and what brought him here to the Florida Marlins training camp tells much about baseball today.

Build it and they will come? Developers seem to have built a ballpark here to attract not just fans but a town. A sign on the center-field fence says Viera is a neat place to live. But except for the ballpark, Viera is pretty much hypothetical. Well, first things first.

aries of at least three of the Pirates' eight position players.

After last season, when the Marlins' Miami attendance declined for the third consecutive season (to 1.6 million; the Rockies have already sold more than 3.4 million tickets for this season), Marlins ownership, which is rich, decided to build the team the new-fashioned way, and see whether fans will come. The Marlins spent $89 million on multiyear contracts for six big-name free agents. However, Leyland, who was weary of scuffling for victories in Pittsburgh,

e seasons—so he had to
tsburgh in the years of
ned how to wring maxi-
narginal players.
free agent is a pitcher,
mi native. Before you
e alphabetically arranged
Marlins media guide, you encounter Luis Castillo from San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, a town that is to middle infielders what Saudi Arabia is to oil. The Marlins also have Felix Heredia, another Dominican; Livan Hernan-

leaguers, but no matter where players come from, the fundamental things apply, and the Marlins' fundamentals drill today is for base runners, practicing aggressive running when pitches are thrown in the dirt. Little things.

Like many modern managers, Leyland calls all his pitchers' throws to first base. Those "throw-overs" often are intended less to pick the runner off, or even to keep him close to the base, than to cause the runner to react in a way that might reveal his behavior when he is, or is not, planning to run. Leyland is paid to notice

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WORLD EDUCATION LEAGUE

Who's top?

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

Some countries seem to educate their children much better than others. Why? No comprehensive answer has emerged yet but plenty of lessons are being learnt from the tests which reveal the educational discrepancies

A CLASS has 28 students and the ratio of girls to boys is 4:3. How many girls are there? Which of the following is made using bacteria: yogurt, cream, soap or cooking oil? Simple enough questions in any language (the answers, by the way, are 16 and yogurt). But when half a million pupils from around the world were set questions like these, some countries, just like some pupils, did very well and some very badly.

The tests were set for the largest-ever piece of international education research, the Third International Maths and Science Study (TIMSS). Of the 41 nations participating in this first phase, Singapore was teacher's pet: the average scores of its pupils were almost twice those of South Africa, bottom of the class (see table 1).

East Asian countries have overtaken nations such as America and Britain which have had universal schooling for much longer. America came 17th in science and 28th in mathematics. England came 25th in maths and Scotland (whose pupils were tested separately) came 29th. The four richest East Asian economies took the first four places in maths.

Some former communist countries, notably the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Bulgaria, also did significantly better than their richer western neighbours, even though they spend much less on education. Six of the top 15 places in both maths and science went to East Europeans. It seems that how much a country can afford to spend has less than you might think to do with how well educated its children are. American children have three times as much money spent on their schooling as young South Koreans, who nevertheless beat them hands down in tests.

International educational comparisons like the TIMSS study have been subjects of growing academic enthusiasm and criticism since the 1960s (for the controversies, see box on next page). Teachers, though, have been almost entirely hostile and most governments have held themselves aloof from the arguments, fearing embarrassment. A poor showing in the league table would give political opponents ammunition, while the studies might be used to accuse ministers of starving their education system (or, possibly, of wasting taxpayers' money on a grand scale).

Now, attitudes are changing, at least among politicians. Over the past ten years or so, governments' desire to know more about how their schools compare with others, and what lessons can be learned from the comparison, have begun to outweigh fear of embarrassment. More countries took part in TIMSS than in its predecessors, and the attention paid to its findings by the world's politicians, educators and the news media was much greater than for previous studies.

Politicians do their homework

President Clinton described the test in his state-of-the-union message in February, as one "that reflects the world-class standards our children must meet for the new era." America's poor overall showing has sparked calls for the adoption of a national curriculum and national standards for school tests—including from Mr Clinton himself. These calls are based on the observation that the countries which did best in the study tended to have national frameworks of this kind.

In a television interview in December, the French president, Jacques Chirac, described as "shameful" a decision by his education ministry to pull out of an international study of adult literacy which was showing that the French were doing badly. And in Britain last year, Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, brushed aside objections from officials in the Department for Education and Employment, and published the unflattering results of a study he had commissioned comparing British workers with those in France, America, Singapore and Germany—chosen as key economic competitors.

The Germans, in turn, were shocked by their pupils' mediocre performance in the TIMSS tests. Their pupils did only slightly better than the English at maths, coming 23rd out of 41 countries. In science, the English surged ahead (though not the Scots) while the Germans were beaten by, among others, the Dutch, the Russians—and even the Americans. A television network ran a special report called "Education Emergency in Ger-

2+2=? 1

13-year-olds' average score in TIMSS* (Int average =500)

	Maths		Science	
1	Singapore	643	Singapore	607
2	South Korea	607	Czech Republic	574
3	Japan	605	Japan	571
4	Hong Kong	588	South Korea	565
5	Belgium (Fl)	565	Bulgaria	565
6	Czech Republic	564	Netherlands	560
7	Slovakia	547	Slovenia	560
8	Switzerland	545	Austria	558
9	Netherlands	541	Hungary	554
10	Slovenia	541	England	552
11	Bulgaria	540	Belgium (Fl)	550
12	Austria	539	Australia	545
13	France	538	Slovakia	544
14	Hungary	537	Russia	538
15	Russia	535	Ireland	538
16	Australia	530	Sweden	535
17	Ireland	527	United States	534
18	Canada	527	Canada	531
19	Belgium (W‡)	526	Germany	531
20	Thailand	522	Norway	527
21	Israel	522	Thailand	525
22	Sweden	519	New Zealand	525
23	Germany	509	Israel	524
24	New Zealand	508	Hong Kong	522
25	England	506	Switzerland	522
26	Norway	503	Scotland	517
27	Denmark	502	Spain	517
28	United States	500	France	498
29	Scotland	498	Greece	497
30	Latvia	493	Iceland	494
31	Spain	487	Romania	486
32	Iceland	487	Latvia	485
33	Greece	484	Portugal	480
34	Romania	482	Denmark	478
35	Lithuania	477	Lithuania	476
36	Cyprus	474	Belgium (W‡)	471
37	Portugal	454	Iran	470
38	Iran	428	Cyprus	463
39	Kuwait	392	Kuwait	430
40	Colombia	385	Colombia	411
41	South Africa	354	South Africa	326

*Third International Maths and Science Study †Flanders ‡Wallonia
Source: TIMSS

many"; industrialists accused politicians of ignoring repeated warnings about declining standards in schools.

There are more studies to come. In December the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a club of 29 of the world's richest countries, launched its own series of annual reports. The OECD already collects data on how the governments spend their combined $1 trillion annual education budgets, and what proportion of each nation's population reaches a given level of education. The new studies will go much further, comparing how schools, colleges and universities are run in each country and analysing the implications for policymakers.

In some countries, international comparisons are already being used as a catalyst for educational reform. The poor performance of Swedish children in maths, in one study in the mid 1980s, led to the setting up of a new programme of in-service training for teachers. The initial results from TIMSS suggest that Sweden has since pulled itself up to slightly above the international average.

Although Japanese children have repeatedly gained high overall marks in maths tests, some studies have suggested that they are not as advanced in other things, such as analysing data, as they are in basic arithmetic. The Japanese government has started using such findings to reform its national curriculum. Hungary, discovering in early studies that its children were among the world's best in maths and science but among the least literate, ordered its teachers to spend more time on reading.

Knowledge workers

Leaving aside the results of the tests, two main factors lie behind governments' increasing willingness to take part in international education studies to begin with. The first is the growing consensus that education is the key to getting rich—for countries as well as for individuals. It is widely believed that one of the main reasons why tiger economies like Singapore and South Korea have grown so quickly is that their governments have made determined and successful efforts to raise educational standards.

The other factor is value for money. Governments everywhere have woken up to the full economic significance of education just as they are making desperate attempts to rein in public spending. OECD countries already spend about 6% of national income on education; given the pressure to trim budgets there is no prospect that governments will chuck money at schools without checking to see whether standards are improving. Hence the enthusiasm for comparisons. If governments could discover what it is about their education system that helps growth, then perhaps, they hope, they could do better without spending more.

So do the tests help? They do not provide a sure-fire formula of exactly how much should be spent on schools, how schools should be managed and precisely how each subject should be taught.

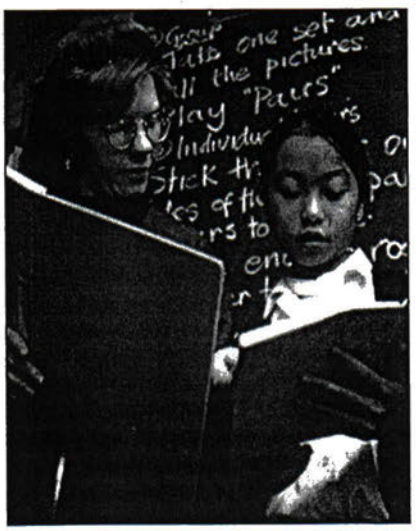
All the same, the tests are already proving useful, especially for exposing myths. A popularly-held view has it that "opportunity to learn" is the key to educational success—ie, the more time children spend on a

Answering the critics

CROSS-COUNTRY comparisons have long been controversial. Among the doubts: Do tests put an unwarranted premium on certain qualities—speed of recall, mental arithmetic—while ignoring hard-to-measure ones like creative thinking? Were pupils from different countries really comparable? (For instance, in countries where children are made to repeat a year of their education if they fail to reach a certain standard, tests for, say, 13-year-olds may exclude those who have been sent to join a class of 12-year-olds.) Were pupils in some countries told that the tests were extremely important, while others were not? Did the tests give an unfair advantage to countries whose curriculum for 13-year-olds happens to include more of the topics included in them?

Wendy Keys of Britain's National Foundation for Educational Research, one of the bodies that organised the TIMSS project, says that a number of measures were taken to answer such criticisms. The score for each country was adjusted to take account of any pupils who were held back a year. Teachers everywhere were given precise instructions on how to explain the tests to pupils, and independent monitors were sent to schools chosen at random. After the results were in, experts in each country looked at how their pupils had done on those questions which most closely matched the curriculum for children of their age.

The results? Broadly, the new study confirmed the relative positions of countries which had taken part in earlier studies. That consistency suggested the original criticisms may have been exaggerated. However, the refinements made in the recent study may overturn one of the theories that has been used to explain why America and Britain, in spite of having had universal education for longer than most nations, do so poorly. This is that they contain an unusually large proportion of pupils who perform very badly. The comforting implication would be that ordinary pupils do reasonably well but that average scores are dragged down by a so-called "long tail of low achievers".



Much to learn from each other

This explanation was given a colour of plausibility by earlier tests. In those, mediocre scores in Britain and America could be explained away by the failure of the tests to take account of countries where pupils are held back a year. The new version of the test puts that problem right—and the two countries are still doing poorly. Though the mass of results from TIMSS is still being analysed, Dr Keys says there is no sign so far of the "long tail". The implication would be that the average scores of American and British pupils are mediocre because average performance is mediocre, and not because of some peculiarity at the very bottom of the class.

subject, the better they do at it. Alas, the evidence so far is not encouraging for the proponents of this theory. Taking the twelve countries which both took part in TIMSS and also had their average teaching hours measured in the OECD's recent study of school management, there seems little correlation between time spent on a subject and performance of pupils in tests (see chart 2). Young Austrians spend exceptionally long hours on maths and science lessons; for them, it pays off in higher test scores. But so do New Zealand's teenagers—and they do not do any better than, say, Norwegians, who spend an unusually short time on lessons in both subjects.

Next—and of particular interest to cash-strapped governments—there appears to be little evidence to support the argument, often heard from teachers' unions, that the main cause of educational under-achievement is under-funding. Low-spending countries such as South Korea and the Czech Republic are at the top of the TIMSS league table. High-spenders such as America and Denmark do much worse (see chart 3). Obviously, there are dozens of reasons other than spending why one country does well, another badly, but the success of the low-spending Czechs and Koreans does show that spending more on schools is not a prerequisite for improving standards.

Another article of faith among the teaching profession—that children are bound to do better in small classes—is also being undermined by educational research. As with other studies, TIMSS found that France, America and Britain, where children are usually taught in classes of twenty-odd, do significantly worse than East Asian countries where almost twice as many pupils are crammed into each class. Again, there may be social reasons why some countries can cope better with large classes than others. All the same, the comparison refutes the argument that larger is necessarily worse.

Further, the tests even cast some doubt over the cultural explanation for the greater success of East Asia: that there is some hard-to-define Asian culture, connected with parental authority and a strong social value on education, which makes children more eager to learn and easier to teach. Those who make this argument say it would of course be impossible to replicate such oriental magic in the West.

Yet the results of TIMSS suggest that this is, to put it mildly, exaggerated. If "culture" makes English children so poor at maths, then why have they done so well at science (not far behind the Japanese and South Koreans)? And why do English pupils do well at science and badly at maths, while in France it is the other way around? A less mystical, more mundane explanation suggests itself: English schools teach science well and maths badly; French schools teach maths better than science; East Asian schools teach both subjects well.

Please sir, why are we so brainy?

Apart from casting doubt on some widely-held beliefs, do international comparisons have anything constructive to say? So far, the conclusions are tentative, but some answers are emerging.

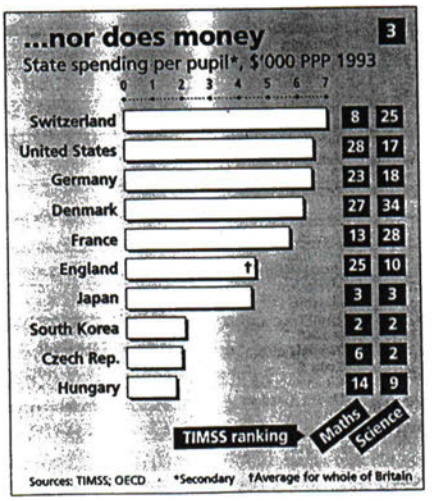
Teaching the teachers

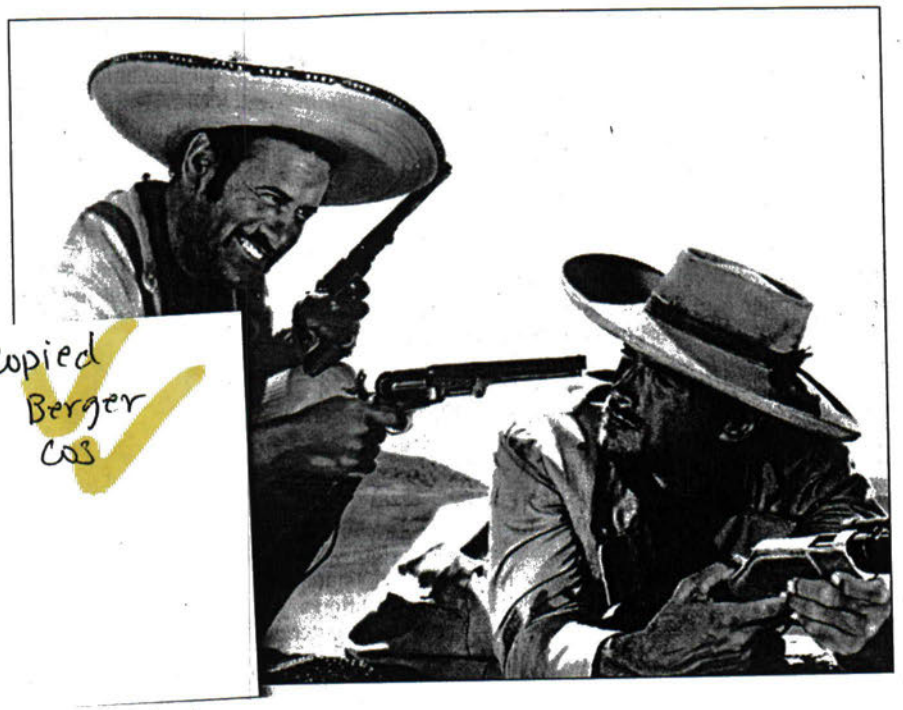
As well as getting pupils to sit tests, the TIMSS researchers monitored the way lessons were taught in each country. Eventually this should point to which teaching method tends to be most successful, though the data are still being worked on. Meanwhile, other researchers have been searching for common factors among those countries whose schools seem to turn out well-educated pupils.

Julia Whitburn of Britain's National Institute of Economic and Social Research has studied the way maths is taught in Japan and Switzerland, two countries which are different in many ways but whose pupils seem to do consistently well at in the subject. She noted a number of common factors:

- Much more time is spent on the basics of arithmetic than on more general mathematical topics such as handling data;
- Pupils learn to do sums in their heads before they are taught to do them on paper; calculators are usually banned;
- Standardised teaching manuals, which are tested extensively in schools before being published, are used widely;
- A method known as "whole-class interactive teaching" is used widely. The teacher addresses the whole class at once, posing questions to pupils in turn, to ensure they are following the lesson. American and British schools have been criticised for letting pupils spend much of their time working in small groups, with the teacher rushing from one group to the next to see how they are doing. Ms Whitburn notes that in Japan and Switzerland this method is only used in teaching arts and crafts;
- Finally, great efforts are made to ensure that pupils do not fall behind. Those that do are given extra coaching.

Learning, though, is not a one-way street. Just as western countries are busy seeking to emulate Japanese schools, schools and universities in Japan are coming under pressure from employers to turn out workers with the sort of creativity and individuality that the Japanese associate with western education. And just as American and British politicians are demanding that schools copy their more successful oriental counterparts and set their pupils more homework, the South Korean government is telling schools to give pupils regular homework-free days, so they can spend more time with their families—just like western children. Perhaps in education there is such a thing as a happy medium.





Neighbours

WASHINGTON, DC, AND MEXICO CITY

"THE political culture of Mexico is immature; any perceived slight by the 'giant of the north' could lead to an upsurge in nationalism." This unsigned memo, which found its way into briefing packets sent earlier this month by the White House to members of Congress, was typically crude and patronising. But it was perceptive. America's annual round of "certification"—a stamp of approval given to those countries judged by the United States to be co-operating in the fight against drugs—has this year been more fraught than ever. Relations with Mexico have significantly soured in consequence.

For weeks, Congress threatened to overturn Bill Clinton's decision to certify Mexico. Then, under pressure from an embarrassed White House and outraged Mexicans, the Senate last week agreed to let certification stand and settled instead for telling both the administration and Mexico to brush up their drug-fighting efforts. It is a political fudge which has soothed tempers for the moment; the White House, in particular, wants to keep Mexico happy in advance of Mr Clinton's first-ever trip there, now planned for May 6th-7th. But it leaves the impression that the United States' war on drugs in general, and its treatment of Mexico in particular, are riddled with contradictions.

Nobody would claim that Mexico is an ideal drug-fighting partner. The head of its anti-drugs agency, General Jesus Gutierrez, was recently arrested on charges of being on the payroll of its most notorious drug lord. On March 17th another army general was arrested for offering $1m a month to a fellow-officer to secure safe passage for cocaine into the United States. In an effort to overhaul the anti-drugs campaign, the president of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, has already replaced his attorney-general. On March 21st, Mariano Herran, the replacement for General Gutierrez, promised a top-to-bottom sweep of the anti-narcotics force. But Mexico's ambassador to Washington, Jesus Silva Herzog, concedes that any improvement will take years.

However, the corruption is not all on the Mexican side: federal authorities have found mounting evidence that local sheriffs and judges in Texas counties along the border have been accepting money from Mexican drug lords to turn a blind eye to their activities. Besides, the United States has other, increasingly important, concerns in Mexico, which make it hazardous to stir resentment there.

Spurred by the North American Free-Trade Agreement (NAFTA), trade between the two countries has risen fast (totalling around $120 billion in 1995, third only to trade with Canada and Japan). The number of Mexicans living in the United States, legally and illegally, is also growing fast. Until the recent row over drugs, American and Mexican diplomats reported that relations on a host of issues, including trade and the environment, were getting easier.

Yet those larger considerations are less apparent to congressmen who, unlike the administration, do not deal with Mexico on a day-to-day basis. The debate over drug certification became a rallying cry for all those with general worries about Mexico, not just those concerned specifically about drugs. It united politicians (such as Dianne Feinstein) worried about the tide of immigration with those (such as Richard Gephardt) still worried about the impact of NAFTA on American jobs.

Mark Falcoff, a Latin-American specialist at the American Enterprise Institute, detects an increasingly vociferous anti-Mexico coalition in Congress, embracing both left-wing Democrats and nationalist Republicans. This coalition will have plenty of opportunities to get angry again later this year. In July, for example, the president is due to deliver to Congress a progress report on NAFTA. The administration is also planning to ask Congress for "fast-track" negotiating authority to make it easier to strike new trade deals with other Latin American countries, starting with Chile.

Meanwhile, the question many in Washington are asking is whether the process of certification serves any useful purpose. It is meant to punish countries deemed uncooperative in the drugs war by withdrawing aid and other forms of assistance. In practice, only countries whose political sensitivities the United States can afford to ignore, such as Iran and Colombia, are decertified; the administration has to pretend that countries with which it wants to stay friendly also happen to be good at fighting drugs.

Even James Jones, America's ambassador in Mexico city, argues that decertification is counter-productive and should perhaps be scrapped. Yet Congress is unlikely to agree: not least because certification conveniently shifts the debate about drugs away from the tricky issues of how to reduce demand at home, and focuses it in-

stead on which foreigners to blame for supplying the stuff.

On the face of it, demand for drugs in the United States is under control: surveys suggests that around 13m Americans take illegal drugs, compared to a high (as it were) in 1979 of 25m users. Yet these figures mask two worrying trends. First, though casual taking of many drugs has dropped, frequent consumers and addicts seem to be taking drugs in greater quantities. Second, there has been a sudden revival in drug-taking among teenagers, from 5% of 12-17-year-olds in 1992 to 11% in 1995.

Around two-thirds of the $15 billion federal drugs budget still goes on trying to curb supply by, for example, imprisoning drug dealers, policing borders and fighting drug gangs abroad. There is little evidence that this achieves much. Drug-related crime is as high as ever, and the price of both cocaine and heroin sold on American streets has dropped dramatically since the early 1980s.

Whenever the United States succeeds in blocking one import route, another opens. Efforts in the mid-1980s to stop cocaine coming in through south Florida encouraged the Colombian cocaine cartels to develop new routes through Mexico. Efforts to stop opium production in Mexico in the 1970s by spraying poppy crops with herbicides worked for a while—until production simply moved to more remote areas.

The Mexican border is still the biggest drug-import route into the United States. Every year 230m people and 84m cars cross it, making the border a 2,000-mile-long sieve. According to intelligence sources, the Mexican drug cartels (which have become big traffickers in their own right) now have transport and distribution organisations that use both smuggling routes and legitimate commerce to ferry cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamines. Their organisation is compartmentalised. Even if a courier is caught, he cannot rat on his associates because he does not know them.

Three years ago the Americans set up the South-West Border Initiative (SWBI), which brought together all the drug-fighting agencies with their Mexican counterparts. Using wiretaps, the SWBI identified a number of barons living in Mexico. Yet efforts to nab them through joint operations inevitably fail, complain the American drug agents, when corrupt Mexican commanders tip off the suspects. According to Thomas Constantine, the head of America's Drug Enforcement Administration, "There is not one single law-enforcement institution in Mexico with which the DEA has an entirely trusting relationship."

A report in February by the Council on Foreign Relations think-tank highlights the failure of America's efforts to control international drug supplies, and argues that more emphasis should be placed on reducing demand. Shifting popular attitudes towards drugs is not easy: telling teenagers to say no will encourage some to say yes. But surveys suggest that much of the recent rise in teenage drug use is driven by a softening of attitudes rather than a surge in supply. The report also argues that treating addicts is a much more cost-effective way of reducing drug use than international efforts to block supplies.

Mathea Falco, an assistant secretary of state for narcotics issues in the Carter administration and an author of the study, recently pointed out that the United States has a long tradition of blaming other countries for its drugs problems. Back at the turn of the century, opium was associated with the Chinese, and marijuana with Mexicans. The recent row over Mexico's certification has certainly brought the tradition bang up to date.

His money gone

HOUSTON

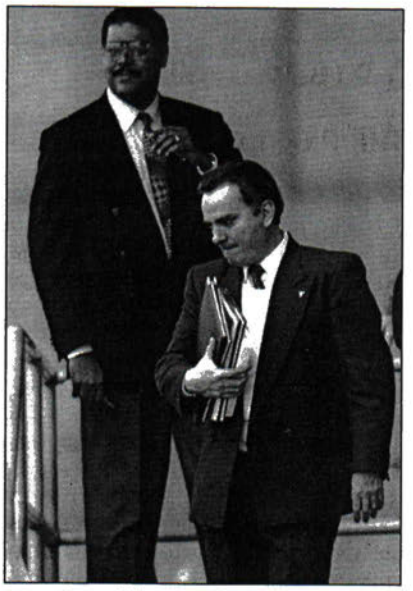
IT WAS a peculiar case. Nobody was exactly found guilty of anything, yet it tainted the whole Mexican judicial system. In a civil-action verdict handed down on March 15th, a federal jury in Houston decided to confiscate $7.9m of the $9m that Mexico's former deputy attorney-general, Mario Ruiz Massieu, had stashed in a Texas bank account.

Mr Massieu had testified that the money was a family nest-egg which he had banked in Texas to avoid the peso's devaluation. The jury disagreed. The money, they said, was mostly handsome kickbacks from Mexican drug lords. Texas newspapers gleefully pointed out that Mr Massieu would have done better to have kept the money under his bed.

The verdict cheered every North American politician, from Senator Phil Gramm downwards, who wanted to decertify Mexico. The most damning item was the testimony of a former agent of the Mexican federal judicial police, who linked Mr Massieu to the disappearance of several tons of cocaine from police custody in Zacatecas in 1994. The agent testified that, after the cocaine vanished, he personally delivered two suitcases of cash to Mr Massieu, who was deputy attorney-general at the time.

Houston is accustomed to washing Mexico's dirty laundry. Last year a Houston jury sentenced Juan Garcia Abrego, one of Mexico's richest drug lords, to life imprisonment. Not surprisingly, Houstonians take a dim view of it all. Texas has an agreement with Mexico to limit drug-smuggling along its borders. The widespread disillusionment in the state, increased by Mr Gramm's acerbity, casts a shadow on the agreement's future.

Mr Massieu's future looks even bleaker. The United States is seeking to deport him to Mexico, and Mexico intends to try him all over again.



Massieu without suitcase

Drugs

Addictive justice

WASHINGTON, DC

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 4-18-97

SOMETHING strange is happening in a court in Washington, DC. Judge Jose Lopez descends from his usual lofty position on the bench, walks to the middle of the court, and offers a deal to a dozen or so defendants. All are drug-takers, and all are on minor charges. The judge offers them the chance to be put on probation, or even have their case dropped, rather than be sent to jail if they are found guilty. But first of all they must successfully complete an unusual scheme to wean them off drugs. All the defendants sign up.

The scheme is unusual because, in the judge's words, it relies on a combination of "sanctions and love". It is also unusual because there is some evidence that it works. As a result dozens of similar schemes, known as "drug courts", are being set up across America.

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Drugs

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next day. The punishments are short, but increasingly sharp if the defendant continues to test positive. As a first rap, the defendant spends three days sitting in the court, observing others being tried. If that doesn't work, he spends three days in jail; then seven days in a detoxification clinic; then seven days in jail; and so on.

The "love" part of the scheme means, in practice, intensive drug treatment if the defendants demand it, plus concern and encouragement from the judge. A computer terminal on the bench gives him up-to-date information, such as test results and progress reports, about all the defendants.

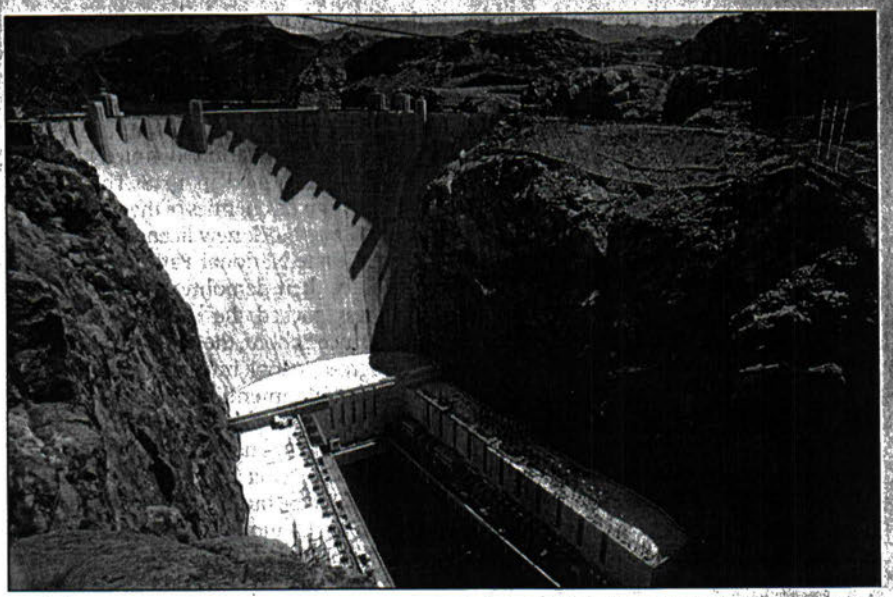
Adèle Harrell and Shannon Cavanagh of the Urban Institute, a think-tank, recently released preliminary results of a detailed study of the scheme, paid for by the federal government. Whereas only 13% of defendants treated in the usual way by the courts were free of drugs in the month before senteneing, those on the special scheme managed 32%. Since the scheme is voluntary, is it possible that it will tend to attract those who are anyway more eager to give up drugs. But there are good reasons to believe it actually alters behaviour.

The punishments for drug-taking are immediate and predictable, unlike the usual court justice, which often involves long delays. This is ideal for addicts, many of whom think no further ahead than a day or so. The punishments are also a taste of what might come. "It's a wake-up call. You realise . . . the risk of losing your freedom," says one defendant, having spent three long days observing a court.

If drug courts do work, they could prove a powerful way to reduce America's demand for drugs. Most heroin and cocaine is bought by heavy rather than casual drug-takers and, on some estimates, around three-quarters of these heavy drug-takers are arrested each year. People passing through the court system, therefore, seem to account for most illegal drug demand.

The White House recently proposed more money for drug courts, from $30m in the 1997 fiscal year to $75m in 1998. In contrast, the cost of a nationwide scheme has been estimated at $4 billion a year. Yet, though it costs more to send defendants through a drug court than through probation, sending them to prison is roughly ten times more expensive.

If there is a risk with setting up a national network of drug courts, it is that judges may not rise to the challenge. Drug courts require them to become rather like moral tutors, involved daily in the life of defendants. Judge Lopez relishes the role, sometimes punishing defendants, sometimes praising them, sometimes even hugging them. Other judges may prefer dispensing traditional justice from the comfortable distance of the bench. ■



Water in the West (1)

The big one

LAKE POWELL, ARIZONA

IT LOOMS 710 feet over the desert canyon. Built to store water and to produce electricity for the south-western states, and taking 17 construction workers' lives in the building, Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell, the 180-mile-long azure lake above it, provide recreation to thousands of boaters and other water-lovers on the border of Utah and Arizona. Lake Powell (named after Major John Wesley Powell, the first American systematically to explore the Colorado river) is so vast that it took 16 years to fill itself up. Now, more than 30 years after the dam's completion, environmentalists want to drain Lake Powell. They have a fight ahead of them.

The campaign is led by the Sierra Club, which has called for the lake to be drained so that the river can flow freely again and the natural beauty of Glen Canyon can be restored. Building the dam was a terrible error, says the club penitently. "I've been kicking myself for 40 years," admits David Brower, an 84-year-old environmentalist from Berkeley who, as the Sierra Club's executive director in the 1950s, agreed to let the dam be built in exchange for the scrapping of plans for two other dams.

Lake Powell has inundated several thousand American-Indian ruins, brought a number of local fish and animals near to extinction, and obliterated not only the rapids in Cataract Canyon but also some of the most beautiful river-bank desert scenery in America. The idea that it provides enough water for the endless growth of cities like Las Vegas and Salt Lake City is, say the critics, quite false. They reckon the reservoir loses about 1m acre-feet (1.2 billion cubic metres) of water each year to evaporation and seepage into the canyon walls. They also worry about the dam. It suffered severe damage in floods during 1983, and was only days away from catastrophe—some say—when the river subsided.

For once, the Sierra people believe, the damage can be undone. The dam can stay, for the moment. But Lake Powell must be drained. Do that, says Rob Smith, south-west director of the Sierra Club, and "it's possible to restore things we thought we had lost."

The opposition is many-sided. There are the electric power companies and their 6m customers in six western states. There are boaters from Utah and fly-fishers from California, who love the freedom of the lake and the clear trout-stream waters below the dam. There are also the 8,000 people in nearby Page, the town built to house the workers at the dam and their families. They feel strongly in Page. Butch Becker, who manages a boating supply store there, believes the town might as well be closed down if the lake disappears. "They ought to line up those environmentalists and shoot 'em, every last one of 'em."

But someone has to speak for the river, replies the Sierra Club. Studies show, it argues, that within a couple of seasons after the draining of the reservoir the shoreline areas would return to their natural state, and within a few generations the rest of the canyon would be as it was originally. Even the ugly white "bathtub" stain seen in low-water years would probably weather away in time. A test last year by the Department of the Interior, in which the Grand Canyon was flooded by opening the gates at Glen Canyon Dam, produced dramatic results: beaches that had been eroded over decades were built back, and the habitats of fish and animals were restored.

One aspect of the Sierra Club's cam-

Tales of Starvation Emerge From N. Korea

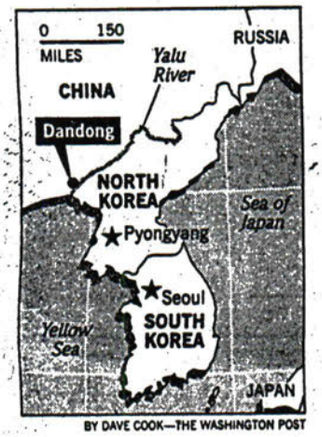
Chinese Who Cross River Return With Reports of Children Dying

A1

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Foreign Service

DANDONG, China, April 16—About 200 to 300 trucks a day cross the bridge over the Yalu River here, hauling sacks of food and other desperately needed goods to North Korea. When the traders and drivers return, they carry tales of starvation and desperation in the ailing Stalinist nation.

A group of Chinese truck drivers waiting at the foot of the bridge this morning reported that they have seen starving children in North Korea. A man who would only give his surname as Re and who was waiting to drive construction supplies to the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, said that on a recent trip he saw one dead child and two other children nearly dead apparently from hunger who were left abandoned by the roadside.



BY DAVE COOK—THE WASHINGTON POST

"I've seen schoolchildren staggering like drunkards because they are so hungry," said a trader named Liu, who has a small Chinese medicine shop nearby and who was in North Korea a few days ago. "Kids are coming to towns from the countryside to beg."

Another Chinese trader here, who recently visited relatives and villages in North Korea, said that "people are too weak to plant. And even if they could plant, they'd be too weak to harvest."

See BORDER, A28, Col. 1

BORDER, From A1

These are just some of the tales told here in Dandong, a Chinese city facing North Korea across the Yalu River. The most important of four major points for the dwindling trade across the river dividing China and North Korea, Dandong is a good listening post in the effort to measure just how grave a food crisis North Korea faces. Many Chinese and Korean families have relatives on opposite sides of the river. The legal trade is dominated by Chinese citizens who cross over to the North, while North Koreans generally are not allowed to leave their country.

Judging from reports here, the economic situation in North Korea is dire and getting worse. Traders and drivers also tell of idle factories, collapsing agricultural collectives, rampant corruption and political disillusionment. Several hungry refugees have escaped to Dandong, residents say, but were returned after being caught by Chinese authorities. Residents here say some North Korean women sneak over to Dandong and marry any man to become residents and be assured of square meals.

Gauging the gravity of North Korea's crisis is a critical issue as other nations try to decide whether—and how much—to help the Communist-style dictatorship whose planned economy is falling apart. The floods of the past two years have only compounded woes that have been mounting since the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, North Korea's longtime patron. Foreign governments want to prod North Korea into opening up its closed, repressive society, but they also want to prevent chaos from exploding there.

On Tuesday, the United States, eager to lure North Korea into talks over peace and arms, announced it was adding $15 million worth of food to earlier announced donations. On Saturday, China said it would donate 70,000 tons of grain in what was seen as an effort to prevent large numbers of famished North Korean refugees from crossing the porous border between the two countries. The river here is less than half a mile wide, and farther north it is even narrower and can be forded easily on foot in warm weather.

The two new donations will cover only about 5 percent of a North Korean grain shortfall that a Beijing-based official of the United Nations' World Food Program estimated last week will be "in the neighborhood of 2.3 million tons" this year. But foreign donors fear that food will find its way to North Korea's influential military, leaving children and other ordinary citizens still hungry.

International aid experts who have visited North Korea also have provided reports of food shortages and disease. Last month Arthur Holcombe, Beijing-based head of the United Nations Development Program, reported cases of rickets and scurvy. One aid group said that North Korea admitted that 134 children had died of starvation.

But the personal accounts related by traders from this Chinese city give more graphic images of a nation in crisis.

"Last year it was bad," said Liu's wife. "This year it's worse." She added that among the people she has seen there has been an increase in incidents of typhoid fever and other infectious diseases.

Because of the large numbers of ethnic Koreans who live in China's Liaoning and Jilin border provinces and the numbers of ethnic Chinese who live in North Korea, interest in North Korean affairs runs high around here.

Local television carries broadcasts from both North and South Korea. On Tuesday, the North Korean broadcast showed thousands of people in Pyongyang paying homage and presenting flowers to giant statues of the late Kim Il Sung on what would have been the 85th birthday of the man known there as the "Great Leader."

"Lies, all lies," said Wang Xianhua, a Chinese trader who lived in North Korea until she was 19 and makes selling trips there ranging from two weeks to three months at a time. "Ordinary people don't believe in the leadership anymore."

Wang has a shop packed tight with low-quality "basic" Chinese goods that are difficult to sell to discerning Chinese consumers: cheap rubber boots, sugar-coated peanuts, stale crackers in large plastic bags, and cheap clothing and blankets.

When she goes to the North, the North Koreans pay with Chinese or American currency. Barter, once prevalent, has largely dried up because the North Koreans have little to swap aside from shrimp, prawns and crabs. North Korea's total trade for 1995 was less than a week's worth of South Korea's exports that year.

Wang said that on her visits to the North she sees children too weak to stand without wobbling. She said a relative there said the children were sick.

" 'They're not sick,' I told her. 'They need to eat,' " Wang said.

Children, her relatives told her, have turned to begging, roaming markets with steel plates in their outstretched hands. "Children, even at a young age when they should be running around making mischief, are dying of hunger," she said. She said she hadn't seen anyone starve, but she has seen children with distended bellies that indicate severe malnutrition.

Wang complained about corruption in China, but she said North Korea is "even more corrupt." She said that officials and factory managers are selling factory supplies and equipment on the side to make money, and what scarce food existed has been hidden and sold on the black market.

"No food is being sold," she said. "And if you have some food in your hand, someone will steal it."

She said that many officials and bureaucrats are still living comfortably. "It's the ordinary citizens who are suffering," she said.

She said her relatives in North Korea are factory workers, but their factories haven't operated in more than three years because of a lack of raw materials, fuel and equipment.

Since 1978, when China launched economic reforms and opened up to outside investment, its economy has flourished. Over the past decade, China's economy has grown at an average rate of close to 10 percent a year. North Korea, however, is entering its seventh straight year of economic decline, with output shrinking by an average of 4 percent to 5 percent a year. Daily food quotas have been slashed to 700 calories per person, aid workers say.

The different economic choices are clearly visible at this river crossing. Although not a particularly attractive town, Dandong at least has a large number of construction projects, a bustling main shopping street, and a lively riverside promenade with restaurants, peddlers and cruise boats. Neon signs and apartment lights burn in the night.

The town of Sinuiju has an aging chemical factory, border guards and fishing boats whose rusting hulls don't look seaworthy. Tuesday night across the river, some distant spotlights could be seen at what was probably a celebration of the late Kim's birthday. Otherwise, the North Korean shore was shrouded in darkness.

Gawking at North Korea appears to have overtaken the other Dandong tourist attraction: visiting a bridge destroyed by American bombers during the Korean War.

For 25 cents, you can peer through binoculars at North Korea. For a little more, you can pose for photos with a dilapidated North Korean chemical plant in the background. And for just $1.60 you can rent a motorboat, cross unmolested into North Korean waters, and wave at the soldiers and people less than 20 yards away on the shore.

On Tuesday more people than usual were walking along the small stretch of beach on the North Korean side because of the national holiday marking the late Kim's birthday. Some waved, some stared. One soldier motioned with his hand as though begging for food.

Back on the Chinese side, a woman named Wang was selling North Korean stamps and other North Korean souvenirs at the foot of the Friendship Bridge. Asked why Chinese tourists come here, she said, "North Korea is like China was during the Cultural Revolution. Chinese people come out of sympathy for a country that is poor and pitiful."

The Washington Post
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

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Hollywood PACs It In

Fund-Raisers Voice Disgust With Campaign Financing

By Sharon Waxman
Special to The Washington Post

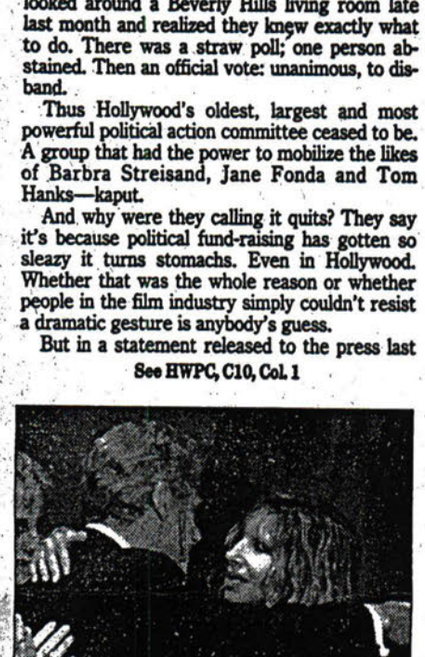
LOS ANGELES—The decision to self-destruct came with surprising ease. After three months of heated argument, agonized introspection and marathon meetings, the 22 leaders of the Hollywood Women's Political Committee looked around a Beverly Hills living room late last month and realized they knew exactly what to do. There was a straw poll; one person abstained. Then an official vote: unanimous, to disband.

Thus Hollywood's oldest, largest and most powerful political action committee ceased to be. A group that had the power to mobilize the likes of Barbra Streisand, Jane Fonda and Tom Hanks—kaput.

And why were they calling it quits? They say it's because political fund-raising has gotten so sleazy it turns stomachs. Even in Hollywood. Whether that was the whole reason or whether people in the film industry simply couldn't resist a dramatic gesture is anybody's guess.

But in a statement released to the press last

See HWPC, C10, Col. 1



BY DOUG MILLS—ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton and HWPC member Barbra Streisand at a fund-raiser last September.

HWPC, From C1

weekend, the 275-member group, a stalwart of the liberal Democratic community, declared, "The Hollywood Women's Political Committee is permanently closing its doors and will no longer participate as a PAC in the raising of funds for political candidates. We will no longer collaborate with a system that promotes the buying and selling of political office." Members learned of the decision, effective June 30, at a general meeting on Saturday.

The news has been slow to spark a reaction in Washington political circles. Some in the nation's capital seem angry, others merely confused. The very idea of voluntarily relinquishing influence seems foreign to the political process.

"I think they're taking a principled stand. I have to respect it," says Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), a past beneficiary of the group. "I just hope it will jog some people into action who don't think reform is important."

Ellen Malcolm, Washington-based president of the largest liberal PAC in the country, Emily's List, says: "We're very disappointed. I don't think that pulling out of the game is going to make any kind of changes. People who want to make change have to stick with the fight and work hard."

"What I'm most sorry about is I think it's a loss of a bit of a counterweight to a lot of big corporate money," says former Clinton adviser George Stephanopoulos, who has been close to Hollywood's Democratic donors. Leaders of the Hollywood group "get attention for their issues. When they choose to give it's usually to important races. I'm not so angry about the signal; the signal has some value—but okay, what next? I don't believe it's enough just to opt out."

Even in Hollywood some activists seem a bit bewildered. "I understand where they're coming from. I'm working in and around pretty much the same issues that HWPC is—or was—working around. I'm no less disgusted than they are," says actor Alec Baldwin, who has been outspoken in favor of arts funding and campaign finance reform. "But does it mean I'm going to give up? Not yet."

Each of the members of the HWPC board, or policy committee, made the leap at a different time.

For entertainment lawyer Susan Grode it began when she looked at the total spent on the last congressional and presidential campaigns, some $2 billion. "I could think of so many other things to put that $2 billion toward," she says.

For former HWPC executive director Lara Bergthold, now a political consultant to producer Norman Lear, it came after reading a CBS/New York Times poll this month in which 90 percent of those surveyed favored campaign finance reform and 78 percent said they never thought it would happen. "Political folks say no one cares about this. But the reason people never list it as something they want to see happen is because they don't believe it ever will," she says.

For co-founder Margery Tabankin, the idea began to crystallize during the 1996 campaign, when she would send in 200 donations of $1,000 each to the Democratic National Committee and get a lukewarm response. "Everyone had become very cynical," she says. "It was obscene amounts of money being asked for. 'Write a $100,000 check. Write a $25,000 check.' . . . There wasn't a day that would go by without an invitation to another huge political event for a huge donation. It was endless."

Members are quick to note that campaign finance reform has been a concern of the PAC since it was founded in 1984. According to several of the founders, no one felt entirely comfortable with becoming a political action committee in the first place. In 1986, the group lobbied Congress on reform and testified in favor of banning PACs.

But there were other pressing issues on its anti-Reagan agenda, including abortion rights, environmental protection, government support for children and the elderly, civil rights protection, opposition to the nuclear weapons buildup and, during the 1980s, opposition to aiding the Nicaraguan contras. Over time, HWPC members—producers, lawyers, writers, musicians and actresses—grew increasingly sophisticated about using their contacts and money to support candidates who shared their beliefs.

Since 1984 the group has raised and given a total of $5.8 million to support candidates and ballot initiatives, starting with a gala for presidential candidate Walter Mondale and running mate Geraldine Ferraro. They took on apartheid, and raised $1.2 million (a sum separate from electoral contributions) for Nelson Mandela's first visit to Los Angeles in 1990 after his release from prison in South Africa.

In 1992 Streisand performed at a million-dollar fund-raiser for Bill Clinton, an event produced by the HWPC. Last year the PAC helped organize the one of largest fund-raisers in Los Angeles history, a gala for Clinton's re-election that brought in $4.1 million, featuring performances by Streisand, the Eagles and Maya Angelou.

After every round of elections, the board members reconsidered the money question: Should they continue to be a PAC? Should they continue to exist? In 1994, after the Democrats' crushing defeat in Congress and millions spent, the question took on new urgency. They decided to continue at least through the next cycle, to work for Clinton's reelection.

But by last year something had changed. "For me, my heart wasn't in it anymore. Not the way it was before," Tabankin says. Many were disillusioned by Clinton's signing of the welfare reform bill, a strike against one of the group's most heartfelt issues. The money machine seemed out of control. A publicist circulated stories that a presidential invitation to his actor-client to play golf was canceled because the actor hadn't donated enough money to the party. Tickets to the gala event had to be raised from $1,000 to $5,000 per couple because, as Bergthold says, "$1,000 wasn't meaningful anymore."

In early December, the board met—as after every election—to regroup and reassess. Already politicians had started to come through town prospecting for money for the next cycle. Everyone was tired, drained. They divvied up tasks to determine their priorities: women's and children's issues, affirmative action and immigration, arts funding and campaign finance reform. Then Bergthold announced she was leaving her job at the head of the HWPC to work for Lear. A replacement would have to be found.

In a series of meetings in January and February, Tabankin reported on finance reform from materials gathered in a three-inch-thick binder. The board surveyed members in a questionnaire and learned that reform was by far the highest priority for most. After the briefing, they argued about options. Some had begun to advocate dissolving the PAC in protest against the system. At a stormy meeting on Feb. 10, the women argued for hours over the issue. A clear majority emerged in favor of disbanding.

From then on, the discussions became secret. At a four-hour meeting on March 26, an eerie consensus began to emerge. Going around the room, board members expressed similar views, that they could no longer continue to work for their political convictions within the current financing system. They lingered for hours, sad and nervous. "It was a little like when you send your kid off to college," recalls one member who was present.

At a final meeting on April 9 before the vote, Tabankin warned: "People will be angry. They will think we were stupid, naive, we're throwing a hissy fit. People will think we're tired." And then: "We don't care. We know why we're doing this. We want to feel clean about ourselves."

At the final membership meeting on April 12, it was all over but the crying. And there was some of that. Over bagels and cream cheese at songwriter Marilyn Bergman's backyard, the board members spoke about how they came to their decision. Two members protested at not having been consulted, but no one strenuously disagreed with the choice itself.

For legal reasons, the HWPC members have not discussed, even among themselves, their plans for future political activity. But they recognize that they have taken a serious risk: Their protest decision may have no effect whatsoever on campaign finance reform, and candidates they support may suffer as a result of the disbanding.

So be it. Some may say politics is about compromise. HWPC members now say politics is about showing leadership.

Says Tabankin: "I don't think it's all hit us yet. It's not sunk in. But it does feel honest. Like the outside of us and the inside of us were finally in sync."

Says Barbara Corday, creator of the TV series "Cagney & Lacey" and a founding member of the group: "On the one hand I'm excruciatingly sad that this meeting I've gone to every three weeks isn't going to happen anymore. This group has lasted longer than jobs and marriages. But on the other hand, we all feel genuinely excited that something important is happening. That we are doing something we all believe in. It feels like a new beginning."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the committee's statement about why it disbanded, click on the above symbol on the The Post's Web site at www.washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
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Plan Adds 'Civil Education' To the Basics of Schooling

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

The New York Times
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1997

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By PETER APPLEBOME

In what is billed as a major effort to broaden the focus of American education, more than 40 leading educational and social service groups plan to announce today an ambitious 10-year program aimed at dramatically increasing the link among schools, communities and social service — all part of a concerted commitment to what is being called "civil education."

The groups, which represent more than 106,000 schools and universities with 64 million students, will announce plans that call for designating 10,000 schools by June 1998 as models for involving students in a range of social service activities like food drives, environmental projects and working with the elderly. The organizers eventually hope to involve up to 16,000 school districts and 3,600 colleges and universities.

Organizers, who call themselves the Partnering Initiative on Education and Civil Society, stress that the notion is not to distract from schools' primary goals of teaching the basics of education but to integrate learning into the world outside the classroom. But the initiative is being greeted with skepticism by some groups and parents more interested in educational basics than the idea that community service should be a large part of school.

Proponents say the initiative is especially important at a time when the notion of restoring a sense of community is so much a part of the national debate and when the educational spotlight has increasingly been on a push for higher test scores, better tests and more rigorous standards. Groups supporting the initiative include the National Education Association, the Department of Education, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the American Association of School Administrators.

Don Ernst, director of government relations for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, said: "I think one of the things that has been lost in the past decade and maybe longer is the belief that there is more to education than simply preparing people for a job.

"So this is about reminding us that schools also exist to educate kids to be good citizens and to re-create and reinvigorate American democracy."

But skeptics, particularly some conservative groups, say that the initiative is a wrong-headed, feel-good diversion from the real needs of American education and that character education often leads schools to usurp parents as teachers of values. And whether such programs should be voluntary or mandatory has already been a vexing question in several communities and states.

"It's a bad idea that gets our eye off the ball of what the real problem is, which is illiteracy," said Phyllis Schlafly, president of the conservative Eagle Forum. "I think it's a diversionary tactic from the real problem of the schools."

Character education, civil education, service learning, learning to serve — the various ideas loosely tied together in the group's mission have slowly grown in influence in recent years. Many states and school systems already use such programs, although on a scattered basis. The idea of the partnership is to bring them to the center of the nation's educational mission.

Earlier this month, in unveiling his President's Summit on Service, to be held April 27 to 29 in Philadelphia, President Clinton endorsed the broad notion of civil education in schools, saying, "Today I challenge schools and communities in every state to make service a part of the curriculum in high school and even in middle school."

Most of the programs already in place are designed to enhance classroom learning with experience in the outside world. Students often design and develop programs instead of just being passive participants.

What the organizers call civil education takes almost endless forms — the University of Pennsylvania's social service programs in its low-income West Philadelphia neighborhood; in Kentucky, Berea College's work with local environmental organizations; the work with the Special Olympics Volunteer Program at Windsor High School in Windsor, Conn., and the project at the Scarsdale Alternative School bringing food and clothing to the homeless in New York City.

At the Harmony School in Bloomington, Ind., students organized a project to save a piece of sculpture that had served as a community landmark and gave up an annual trip to Chicago to spend time doing flood relief work on the Mississippi River.

In all the programs the idea is not just to do worthy service but to incorporate service into education — learning biology by an environmental program cleaning up a polluted stream or learning history by building relationships with World War II veterans.

At Clatskanie High School in Clatskanie, Ore., students have organized "Help Hungry Kids," a food drive endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

"I would consider this program just as important as teaching the traditional academics because it teaches values in a very hands-on and personal way, said the school's principal, Rose Wallace. "You don't teach values by pointing and saying: 'This is a value. Now you adopt it.' You teach it by giving people the opportunity to practice that value and see how it feels."

Including community service with reading, writing and arithmetic.

Scott Kirkland, a senior active in the program, said it has taught him both the business skills of running the program and the personal ones of why it matters.

"It has really opened up my eyes to aspects of life," he said. "I feel very lucky because of what I've seen and what I've been able to do."

The Partnering Initiative plans to call for designating 10,000 schools as resource centers that help other schools develop programs and involving 660 to 700 teachers and community leaders as "coaches" helping to develop and monitor programs. It calls for a national resource center and web site to share information and a number of events to publicize the initiative. The first "Civil Education Week" will be celebrated in the second week of November 1998.

Officials say overseeing and coordinating the project will cost from a half million to a million dollars a year over the life of the project, with money coming from foundation and corporate support. Expenses to individual schools will come out of normal operating budgets.

Mrs. Schlafly said many parents will be skeptical of such programs.

"What are we paying teachers for?" she asked. "Supposedly we pay them to teach knowledge to children, not to go on field trips. There's no way to grade this kind of thing, no objective standards. It's a waste of time."

But, even many educators with initial misgivings say the initiatives in the partnership do not detract from traditional academics but instead add an element that schools and society need.

"When I first heard about service education 8 or 10 years ago I thought, 'Look, I don't know,' " said Brandon Cordes, principal of Wyoming Middle School in Cincinnati. "But my mind was made up when I realized the community wanted it. There's something to life that goes beyond meeting one's own personal needs, and this is a way that we give kids that experience. If that is a little hokey, well, that's how I feel."

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

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Haft and Furman, Wanting Knot

Gloria Haft is getting married. On June 7, she'll wed retired grocery magnate **David Furman**. She's 70 and he's 78.

Furman and Haft, who spend much of their time at homes in South Florida, were fixed up less than a year ago by their respective daughters, **Jolene Shapiro** and **Linda Haft**, who are longtime friends.

Gloria Haft is, of course, a key player in the continuing family feud that includes her messy divorce from, and bitter litigation against, retail and real estate baron **Herbert Haft**, her husband of 45 years. She has three grown children.

FILE PHOTO

Gloria Haft, magnate magnet.

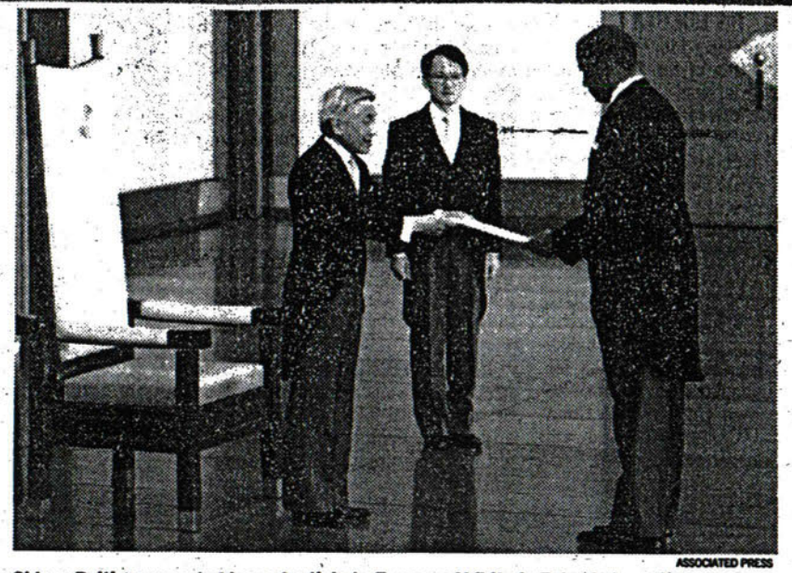
The twice-widowed Furman, who has a son and a daughter, got his start in wholesale produce in Norfolk. In 1957 he co-founded Farm Fresh Inc., which had become the largest supermarket chain in Virginia's Tidewater area when he sold his interest in 1988.

Haft and Furman will tie the knot at the Kalorama home of Gloria's son and daughter-in-law, **Bobby** and **Mary Haft**. Rabbi **Bruce Lustig** of Washington Hebrew Congregation will officiate.

"This is really God's grace note for us," Mary Haft told The Source. "David just showers her with gifts because he treasures and cherishes and loves her so much. It's a moment of the heart. They are at the stage of their lives where you don't wait, you don't linger. They both realize they have been given a second chance."

The couple are out of the country, Mary Haft said, and cannot be reached to answer pressing Source questions about an engagement ring, wedding dress and honeymoon plans. Stay tuned.

NOW YOU KNOW . . .



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sidney Poitier presents his credentials to Emperor Akihito in Tokyo's Imperial Palace.

■ The 35th anniversary report of the Harvard College Class of 1962 plopped through the mail slot this week dressed in a plain brown wrapper. Some alumni updates are longer than others, of course.

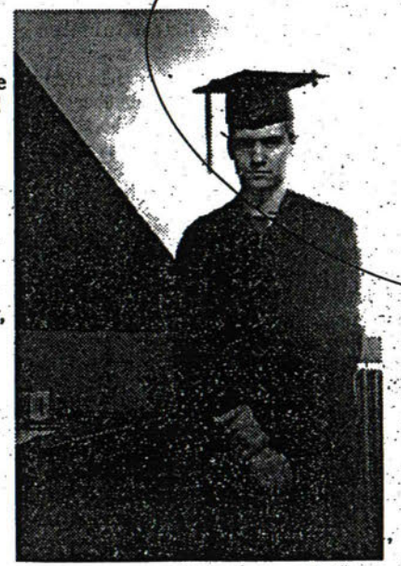
One of the shortest belongs to **Theodore J. Kaczynski**, alleged Unabomber.

"Address: Unknown" is all it says. Actually, his address *is* known. He's been staying in the Sacramento County Jail for the past several months, in case Harvard wants to forward his mail.

■ Washington's social animals don't carry on late into the night. And so an elegant version of the early-bird special—a 5:30 p.m. dinner of lamb with a Thai accent—will precede Sunday's Kennedy Center Gala opening of "The King and I," starring **Hayley Mills**. Smart move, since at last year's 25th anniversary KenCen salute, some people didn't get fed until nearly midnight.

The black-tie bash, with tickets ranging from $350 to $25,000, is sold out for two reasons, said co-chair **Wilma Bernstein**: hot show, early eats. " 'The King and I' is not serious, it's fun—everybody knows it," she said. "It's on a Sunday evening and nobody wants to stay up until 11 or 12 o'clock."

For the truly hip midnight, Mills's son **Crispian** is in town singing with his British pop band, Kula Shaker, at the 9:30 club tonight.



FAMILY PHOTO

■ **Beau**, the yellow Labrador guide dog first barred from and then permitted onto the Senate floor, has become such an insta-celebrity that he now has his own home page on the Senate's Web site. And the public is full of questions, said his human, **Moira Shea**, an energy policy aide to Sen. **Ron Wyden** (D-Ore.).

"They want to know where he went to school, what kind of dog he is, how old he is," said Shea, who depends on Beau to help her see and was barred from entering the chamber with him on Monday by Sen. **Robert Byrd** (D-W.Va.). Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader **Trent Lott** (R-Miss.) introduced a resolution, quickly passed, to authorize the admittance of guide dogs for the disabled.

■ **Sidney Poitier** formally became the Bahamas' ambassador to Japan yesterday and presented his credentials to **Emperor Akihito**. The Academy Award-winning actor, 70, was born in the United States to Bahamian parents, and he'll continue to live in Los Angeles. His posting is Caribbean-style diplomacy: The Bahamas doesn't even have an embassy in Tokyo, but isn't it swell to have such an elegant guy to send abroad from time to time?

■ The wife of Rep. **Roscoe Bartlett** (R-Md.) got bounced recently when she tried to butt in to a line for White House tours. **Ellen Bartlett** did not have tickets for her group of high school students, said White House visitors chief **Melinda Bates**, and line-jumping is not allowed, even by members of Congress.

Bartlett told the Frederick News-Post that she had taken many groups through the White House without tickets and without waiting in line. But Bates said that if staff had allowed Bartlett to break in, "what we were doing is provid-

By Annie Groer and Ann Gerhart

The Reliable Source

The Washington Post

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

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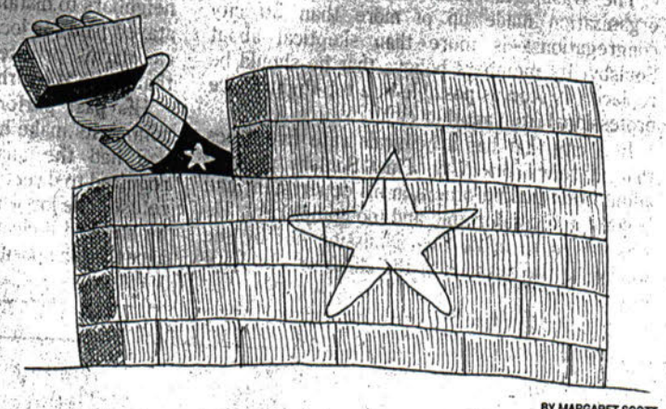
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

THE WASHINGTON POST

Jim Hoagland

The Real China Scandal

Until now, our leaders just haven't been very interested in what Beijing might be up to.



BY MARGARET SCOTT

China refuses to admit that it sought to influence recent U.S. elections with secret campaign donations. But that effort, detected by American counterintelligence, fits into the Middle Kingdom's determined bid to play power politics at the global level as a new century begins.

The driving force in China's bid to follow in the footsteps of other nations that manipulate the American political process is clear: China is determined to demonstrate that it will no longer allow other nations to limit its ability to act where its interests are involved. Beijing will make its own rules in regaining great power status.

The campaign finance controversy is in fact strategic small potatoes compared with the ominous military buildup that China is pursuing to make the same point about its independence from U.S. restraints.

U.S. intelligence analysts have gathered indications in recent weeks that the Chinese military leadership is acquiring specific weapons and drawing up contingency battle plans that will be targeted on U.S. forward-deployed units in the Pacific if conflict over Taiwan escalates again, according to U.S. officials.

This does not mean that hostilities are imminent or even likely in the future, the analysts stress. The study of combat situations that would involve U.S. units is part of a long-range planning exercise undertaken by the Chinese military command in the wake of last spring's bristling confrontation with the United States over Taiwan.

That crisis underlined that Beijing's forces are no match for the overwhelming American firepower deployed in the region. But the accelerating purchases of Russian-made warships, surface-to-surface missiles and warplanes underline China's long-term ambition to reduce or eliminate America's ability to constrain its actions in Asia.

This is a remarkable reversal for a giant but impoverished nation that has been treated like an international doormat for a century. More astonishing is that it took the campaign-financing indiscretion to get Congress and the Clinton administration to understand that China is pursuing its not-so-hidden agenda by all means necessary and available.

The campaign scandal threatens their reputations and livelihoods. So the politicians have finally taken notice.

Chinese officials apparently sought to buy influence in a particularly crude, detectable way in the 1996 elections, while Taiwan and other nations have acquire and exerted influence through skillful, discreet lobbying techniques.

The disclosure about China has had a chilling effect on Capitol Hill and in the Clinton administration, which must now face up to the implications of China's unwillingness to be constrained by American rules or ethics along a broad front.

Vanished from President Clinton's screen are the hopes he had a few months ago of getting trading restrictions on China lifted by Congress on a permanent or multiyear basis this spring. He will now have to settle for another one-year extension of most-favored-nation trading rights for China.

Indonesian and Taiwanese campaign contributions to the Democrats broaden the chilling effect the scandal stories have on U.S. policy toward Asia. Trips to Asia have suddenly become inconvenient for career-minded policymakers or legislators if they have not already been scheduled. What had been a scramble within the bureaucracy to get aboard Vice President Gore's visit to China this week quickly subsided when the campaign scandal broke.

Pending decisions on military sales to Indonesia have been pushed farther back on the shelf. Congressmen who were leaning toward supporting Clinton on "fast track" trade negotiation authority and the administration's negotiating posture on China's admission to the World Trade Organization now lean away.

This is not exactly what the officials in Beijing who discussed buying American politicians in range of U.S. listening devices had in mind. But they will have done the United States an enormous favor if they force Congress and the White House to reassess and change a misguided China policy that has outlived the limited usefulness it had.

China has amassed more than $100 billion in foreign reserves, second only to Japan, and will acquire $60 billion more when it takes control of Hong Kong in July. This money is being used not to better the lives of all of its citizens but to fund a menacing arsenal and the establishment of an industrial base that will make China independent of external constraints throughout the next century.

"The Russians are selling them the latest in military technology and we in the West are selling them the latest in civilian technology," a European diplomat in China told me recently. "Have we thought about where this ends?"

No. The Clinton administration has propagated to itself and to the nation a false choice about China. The choices Washington poses are either engagement—which involves showy summit meetings between presidents, unrestricted business and financial involvement, and gradually warming military contacts—or containment, a strategic encirclement of China by military force and economic isolation.

The sound choice is a more difficult middle strategy: to exercise its influence where it can to limit China's growing ambitions, particularly in Asia. This would involve a mix of incentives and penalties that have the common feature of indicating American disapproval of China's ruling communist dictatorship and support for a democratic alternative.

China has a great-power role to play in the world. Unfortunately, Bill Clinton's indulgence and supineness have helped convince Beijing that it can play that role by bribing, bullying and blustering, without paying a price. It is time to end that ignoble Chinese illusion.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

POLITICS & POLICY

Asian-American Politicians Fear Fallout of Scandal

By MARCUS W. BRAUCHLI
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

MONTEREY PARK, Calif. – Three days before an otherwise uneventful municipal election here last month, a nasty national political scandal spattered this leafy Los Angeles suburb.

On that Saturday morning in March, voters in predominantly Asian-American Monterey Park found their mailboxes stuffed with fliers attacking the leading candidate for city council, two-term incumbent Judy Chu. The charge? That Ms. Chu, a 43-year-old ethnic Chinese educator, was a conduit for Asian money coming into American politics.

"What do Democrats Judy Chu and Bill Clinton have in common?" read one handbill, which – like the others – was sent by an unregistered political organization with a private post-office box for an address. "Bill Clinton has Whitewater and the Democratic fund-raising scandal. Judy Chu is following in his footsteps."

For Asian-American politicians like Ms. Chu – who won re-election on March 4 after denying that she took any money improperly – such smear campaigns are the ugly consequences of the national controversy over foreign campaign donations and access-for-sale in last year's presidential election campaign. More than $3 million in contributions from questionable sources has been returned by the Democratic National Committee.

Worry Over a Probe

The imbroglio in Washington, D.C., reverberates ominously on the Pacific Coast. A number of Asian-Americans who attended a controversial Buddhist temple political fund-raiser in California a year ago have been subpoenaed by a grand jury in Washington. The specter of a Federal Bureau of Investigation probe looms over some state politicians, who received contributions from the same sources whose money the D.N.C. has been forced to return.

Asian-American politicians worry that the pressure of publicity and probes will undercut the great strides they have made in recent years on the West Coast, with its relatively dense concentration of Asian-Americans. They fret that Asian-Americans will shy away from politics and tighten up on campaign contributions.

Reluctance to Participate

"Certainly we've felt some impact of this whole affair," says Matt Fong, California's 43-year-old state treasurer, who bemoans what he sees as the "generically racist overtones" of the controversy.

Matt Fong

'CERTAINLY WE'VE FELT SOME impact of this whole affair,' says Matt Fong, California's 43-year-old state treasurer. But 'we have every right to participate and we're not going to let this prevent us from taking full-fledged political leadership.'

Yet Mr. Fong, a Republican who is California's top Asian-American politician, says, "we have every right to participate and we're not going to let this prevent us from taking full-fledged political leadership." He has announced plans to run next year for the Senate, and already has raised "a couple hundred thousand dollars." Mr. Fong is planning a $600,000 fund-raising dinner for later this spring, but some organizers say that is less than they had hoped for, mainly because of Asian-Americans' reluctance to participate.

The community's money can make a difference for Asian-American politicians. Grace C. Hu, a 52-year-old, Taiwan-born city council member in Cerritos, Calif., figures that "if a Caucasian can spend $1, you need to spend $3 to win."

But local Asian politicians say ethnic money is skittish these days. During her just-finished campaign, for instance, Monterey Park's Ms. Chu spent about $40,000. A California law that came into effect Jan. 1 limits donations for local races to $100, but doesn't require that donors be identified if they give less than that. So Ms. Chu, like many other Asian-Americans running for local office in California this year, solicited $99 donations, which can remain anonymous. "Everybody feels a lot better not being named," she says.

'There Will Be Questions'

Controversies over Asian money have bedeviled West Coast politics. A Southern California congressman of Korean descent, Republican Jay Kim, has come under constant fire since it emerged several years ago that his campaign received contributions from South Korean companies. Taiwan's Evergreen Marine Group, a shipping company, was caught and fined for trying to buy influence in Los Angeles. "Every Asian candidate who steps up to the bat, there will be questions," says Ronald Wong, a political consultant in Los Angeles. "You always have to bend over backwards to show that you're local."

The fund-raising controversy has crescendoed just as Asian-Americans are beginning to make significant headway in U.S. politics. Washington state this year elected the country's first ethnic Chinese governor, 47-year-old Gary Locke, and local officials of Asian ancestry are becoming more common in states with large Asian populations, such as California, Washington, Hawaii and New York. Mr. Locke was unavailable for comment.

Victor I. King, a 32-year-old, newly elected community college trustee in Glendale, Calif., recalls that when he went to the Democratic National Convention last August in Chicago, he and other ethnic Asians were feted because they had raised so much money for the party and were an emerging force.

"We finally had risen to a level where there would be Asian-American appointees and we could be heard," he says. "We may have some troubles now, but eventually we will gain more political influence and it will be disproportionate to our population size because of our higher income and position in society."

Some say the big losers of any retreat from Asian-Americans will be the political parties. "Look, get real: Money is the mother's milk of politics," says Mayor Paul W.S. Zee, an ethnic Chinese Republican, of South Pasadena. "So why do you want to single out Chinese or Asian Americans?" He and other Asian politicians were furious at the scrutiny they say is aimed at people with Asian names.

A pioneering Asian-American politician, March Fong Eu, California's retired secretary of state and the mother of Matt Fong, recently ordered up buttons saying, "Don't bash me, I'm American, too."

Aware of the backlash among the ethnic Asians who make up 8% of this key electoral state's population, the Democratic Party is making efforts to reassure its supporters. "I'll be the first to admit we have not done a very good job dealing with all of this," DNC Chairman Steve Grossman told a group of Asians early this month in Sacramento. "We demeaned people all over this country. For that, I think we owe the community an apology."

The controversy may actually inspire some Asian-Americans to get into politics, says David Lang, a Hong Kong-raised Los Angeles political consultant. "They felt how isolated they were, how under attack," he says. "Once those chips fall, how can you rely on others to represent you?"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

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Summit Plan

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

Dismantle Japan Inc.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

By Shoichiro Toyoda

TOKYO

Japan finds itself at a crossroads. After World War II, our country devoted itself to catching up with the West. But the social and economic systems that enabled success in that endeavor are now obsolete, incapable of coping with the competition we face internationally and the rapid aging of our population at home. These changes require us to reform our existing systems drastically.

According to current projections, by the year 2025, 27.4 percent of Japan's population will be age 65 or older, compared with 18.1 percent of the American population. Meanwhile, we have the most serious budget deficit of any major industrial nation. Last year the combined national and local government deficit came to 7 percent of gross domestic product, almost triple the United States figure of 2.5 percent.

Deregulation must be drastic and fast.

In the private sector, Japanese businesses continue to invest huge amounts of money overseas, but only a relative trickle of foreign money is being invested in Japan. In 1995, $50.7 billion was invested abroad, while just $3 billion was invested in Japan — a reflection of our country's overregulation and heavy corporate taxes. If this trend continues, our domestic economy may be reduced to a mere shell before long.

Japan must shift from an economy burdened by regulations and bureaucracy to one in which the private sector can operate unfettered. We must also downsize the public sector and create a small, efficient government. If these goals are accomplished, I believe the Japanese economy is capable of sustaining growth at an annual rate averaging around 3 percent.

To make this vision come true, bold reforms must be carried out. Above all, deregulation holds the key to success. First, it would lower the high cost of doing business in Japan by promoting competition and removing obstacles to imports. Second, it would check the erosion of the industrial base and create new jobs at home by opening up new frontiers for business and encouraging vigorous investment.

The benefits are already apparent in areas like telecommunications and petroleum products, where the old rules have been relaxed in the form of lower rates and prices. The easing of restrictions on large stores has led to the establishment of many new outlets by foreign and domestic retailers. As estimated by Japan's Economic Planning Agency, the deregulatory steps taken so far have produced an average of 7.9 trillion yen ($66 billion) a year in additional demand, creating up to 1.3 million new jobs.

Deregulation is bound to be painful for some industries that have benefited from the present system. But it is essential for us in the business world to put aside narrow interests and commit ourselves wholeheartedly to reform. And we must act fast. Our success or failure in deregulation depends largely on what we can accomplish this year. We should take encouragement from the American experience that shows deregulation to be tough, but well worth it for the economic vitality it unleashes.

As a concomitant to deregulation, corporations must learn to behave with an even stronger sense of ethics and of responsibility for their own actions. The recent string of business scandals involving price-fixing and currency trading has given us cause for serious soul-searching and for taking steps to prevent any recurrences.

Last November, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced his unwavering determination to carry out reform in six areas: public administration, public finances, economic structure, financial systems, social security and education. The Administrative Reform Council, an advisory panel to the Prime Minister of which I am a member, is going to draw up a comprehensive proposal for streamlining the central bureaucratic organs.

Progress is already being made. The remaining controls on foreign exchange are set to be deregulated, and the central bank is going to get greater legal autonomy. Japan's biggest business organization, Keidanren, welcomes these moves, and will do its utmost to support the Prime Minister's ongoing efforts at reform.

In the 19th century, under pressure from the United States and other countries to end its national seclusion, Japan totally rebuilt its political, social and economic systems. After World War II, Japan again transformed itself drastically. Now our country is working to achieve a third metamorphosis. The force of global competition leaves us little time to accomplish this task. We must make 1997 the first year of structural reform and take big strides toward a Japanese revival. □

Shoichiro Toyoda is the chairman of the Toyota Motor Corporation and of Keidanren, the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations.

Journal

FRANK RICH

Heaven's Gate-gate

The media alimentary canal now digests events so quickly that yesterday's tragedy is not only instantly replayed as farce by Leno and Letterman but then goes directly to video (a made-for-TV movie), all within the Warholian 15 minutes. Thus is the Heaven's Gate mass suicide already sliding toward its final reward, as a future answer on "Jeopardy."

Along the way some usual suspects — the Internet, repressed homosexuality, California — have enjoyed star turns as culprits responsible for the 39 dead. When intense deliberations found them all not guilty, a happy ending was manufactured, largely in the liberal press, to bring the desired closure: Heaven's Gate was a religion, however strange to outsiders, that was sincerely practiced by its benign faithful. Let them rest in peace.

"What is a cult but a collection of believers, like the early Christians, who have not yet achieved dominant status?" asked a typical cult apologist in The New Republic. "Every religion is 'bizarre' for those who do not accept its strictures or practice its tenets." A Washington Post op-ed piece last Saturday was headlined "Cult or Religion? Judge Not ..." and similarly noted that virtually every feature of Heaven's Gate, from castration to mass suicide (remember Masada?), has a historical antecedent in established religions.

True enough, but isn't this the same abdication of all critical distinctions that can usher "Star Wars" into the academic pantheon on the grounds that it recycles Greek myths? Many new faiths, with or without U.F.O.'s, regurgitate aspects of the Bible. And while these new creeds are all entitled to practice freely and with our tolerance, does that mean we must look the other way at the few among them that might be the fiefs of madmen who destroy lives? While one man's cult is often another man's religion, some cults may actually be cults.

This is the message that those who have studied cults in the two decades since Jonestown have been trying to get out, especially as we steam toward Saturday's Waco-Oklahoma City joint anniversary. Yet somehow as Heaven's Gate has been increasingly sentimentalized in the press as a latter-day Shaker commune, that message has been lost. Jim Siegelman, the co-author of "Snapping," a study of contemporary cult groups, points out that "the whole debate over the beliefs and theologies" of Heaven's Gate or any other suspected cult is a red herring. What makes a cult a cult is not its religion, whatever it is, but the practice of mind-control techniques, usually by a charismatic leader, that robs its members of their "independence of thought."

Those techniques, which have nothing to do with spirituality and everything to do with psychological coercion achieved through isolation and sensory deprivation, are likened by another expert, Cynthia Kisser, to totalitarian "re-education camps."

The cult cover-up.

Like Mr. Siegelman, she says that "it's not the beliefs that led Heaven's Gate down the path to death but the dynamics of the group." Another sect could share the Heaven's Gate theology word for word but would be unlikely to spawn 39 body bags without the manipulations of a Jones or Koresh or Do and Ti.

The effectiveness of such manipulations was chillingly revealed in Diane Sawyer's interview on ABC last week with Rio D'Angelo, the 40th Heaven's Gate member, who left a month before the suicides. Like a brainwashing victim in "The Manchurian Candidate," he easily rattled off answers to questions about his beliefs but couldn't respond to the simplest queries requiring him to recall the house he inhabited with Do.

Mr. Siegelman, a fixture on TV talk shows during the feeding frenzy, expects now to go into "deep freeze" until the next cult disaster comes along — just as his warnings were forgotten between Waco and Rancho Santa Fe. Ms. Kisser, who sounded the alarm about other cults in a Wall Street Journal essay on Heaven's Gate, also will have trouble being heard as the headlines fade. The organization she ran for nine years, the Cult Awareness Network, is under a new management peopled with Scientologists. Once the country's pre-eminent battler of cults, it responded to the Heaven's Gate tragedy with broadsides decrying the "anti-religious hysteria" of anyone who dares oppose them. □

The New York Times
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

The Real Chemical Treaty Issue

THE ISSUE underlying the debate on the chemical weapons treaty has only now been accurately identified. It is not whether the treaty awaiting Senate ratification is a fully serviceable instrument that states can rely on to restrain chemical proliferation. The agreement's warmer advocates concede that in the best circumstances it will remain difficult to ensure that the beast does not escape the box. That work cannot be done simply by a treaty, even one such as this, which incorporates degrees of authority and techniques of inspection quite beyond earlier arms-control measures. The work of chemical nonproliferation finally will be done by the power and will of treaty-abiding governments. If those states—of which the United States is a natural leader—do not deter or, in the event, capably defend against chemical attack, then the treaty will be a sham. The consensus on this point is greater than the rhetoric of the treaty debate lets on.

No, the issue underlying the treaty debate is quite different. As stated precisely in an op-ed piece April 13 by David Kay, Ronald Lehman and James Woolsey, it is first about the political psychology of post-Cold War arms control. Do treaties lull us into ignoring threats? Do governments hesitate to enforce treaty obligations in a world disposed not to rock the boat? Those who see arms control as politically disarming oppose ratification not merely for some of the treaty's terms but in fear that ratification will incline peoples and governments to ignore real threats. Those who believe arms control still has a role in mustering public and official vigilance favor ratification—for the terms of the treaty and for the contribution it can make to reducing real dangers.

Philosophically, the arms-control skeptics have a point. Democracies do sometimes get careless about security. They need to be kept on their toes. Practically, however, the skeptics are on weak ground. They preach a useful vigilance, but they have no better plan. What is the United States supposed to do after trashing this treaty: go around the world solo looking for chemical predators to bash? Would it not be better to have a set of agreed rules and all the available technologies and the company of other nations to bolster the treaty's purposes? Can it conceivably be in the American interest to perform this critical mission on its own? The Reagan-Bush pedigree of this treaty and the Clinton embrace of it do not make it foolproof and certainly not self-enforcing. But it has been drafted conscientiously, and if it is enforced conscientiously, it will serve.

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Balance Toward China

IS THE CLINTON administration restoring some balance to its China policy in the wake of a diplomatic defeat in Geneva this week? A few signs give reason to hope for a modest shift.

The most important is President Clinton's decision to meet with Hong Kong democrat Martin Lee on Friday. Mr. Lee, chairman of Hong Kong's top vote-getting political party, is a member of the elected legislature, which China plans to abolish as soon as it takes over Hong Kong July 1. He has tirelessly pressed China to keep its promise to respect the rule of law in Hong Kong, currently a British colony. China already has thrown that promise in doubt, announcing plans to roll back the freedom of assembly and other basic liberties. By meeting with Mr. Lee, the president sends a strong signal that Hong Kong's freedoms matter to the United States.

Mr. Clinton's decision to see Mr. Lee comes as China basks in a victory at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, which voted on Tuesday to not even consider a mildly worded resolution urging improvement in China's own human rights record. That record is abysmal; thousands are imprisoned for their political views or religious beliefs. But the United States, hoping for even symbolic promises of improvement from China, failed to lead an effort on behalf of the resolution. By the time it became clear that no improvement would be forthcoming, China had succeeded in splintering a pro-human rights coalition.

That omission, along with Vice President Gore's decision to skip Hong Kong during his recent China visit, has provoked congressional criticism to the point that extension of China's most-favored-nation trading status—once thought a sure thing—is now in doubt. Such political considerations may have played a role in Mr. Clinton's decision; so, perhaps, did his desire to meet with C. H. Tung, China's hand-picked Hong Kong governor, if Mr. Tung visits Washington later this spring.

But with the lack of results of its policy of forbearance leading up to Geneva, the administration also may be recalculating the importance of standing up for principle. That doesn't mean abandoning a policy of engagement or swerving toward "containment"; it just means not being afraid to speak up for human rights and other matters of U.S. national interest.

A good chance to put such a balanced policy into play comes in June at the annual meeting of the G-7, the world's seven leading industrialized democracies. As host, the United States has a good chance to promote a unified policy and statement on the importance to the West of democracy in Hong Kong—especially if it learns from the Geneva disappointment and begins laying the groundwork now.

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The Washington Post
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-18-97

New Hurdles To Trade Deals With China

2 Negotiators Quitting; Campaign Taint Lingers

By DAVID E. SANGER

HONG KONG, April 15 — Just as the Clinton Administration heads into critical months of negotiations over China's willingness to make some far-reaching economic changes, the talks with Beijing have hit several potentially major roadblocks that make an agreement this year increasingly doubtful, Administration officials said today.

The two top American trade negotiators with Beijing are resigning. The officials, Lee M. Sands and Deborah Lehr, who have led the negotiations over the terms of China's entry into the World Trade Organization, said they were negotiating with Mayer, Brown & Platt, a law firm that recently hired Mickey Kantor, the former United States trade representative and Commerce Secretary.

Their decision to join their former boss in the midst of an enormously complex negotiation that reaches far beyond trade issues — and that has become the focal point of the Administration's engagement with China this year — surprised many American officials.

Indeed, Chinese trade officials have begun warning their American counterparts, in Hong Kong and in Washington, that they are hesitant to proceed with the negotiations because they fear any agreement could further enmesh Beijing in charges swirling around the financing of the 1996 American Presidential campaign.

"They are afraid that any deal will be

Continued on Page 7

Continued From First Business Page

portrayed in Congress as something that China bought," a senior American official said. "Clearly, they are getting advice to let things cool off."

But the Justice Department is still investigating American intelligence reports that first gave rise to suspicions that China may have sought to funnel money into the campaign and to influence several House and Senate races.

Chinese officials have repeatedly denied the charges, which they term fabrications intended to derail relations between the two countries. So far, little evidence has come to light directly tying the Chinese Government or third parties acting on its behalf to any specific campaign contributions. But that will be the subject of Congressional hearings expected to begin later this spring.

"You have to conclude that this does not bode well for the negotiations," said Clyde Prestowitz, president of the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington, and the No. 2 official on a Presidential commission on Asian trade that just submitted its report to the White House. "It is very difficult to change negotiators in the middle of something this sensitive and complicated. And the Chinese realize that the political atmosphere in Washington is hardly favorable for them right now."

In the small world of American trade negotiating — the United States trade representative's office has only about 160 employees — Mr. Sands, 45, and Ms. Lehr, 32, were regarded as two of the country's most capable trade negotiators. Together they worked out the accord last year on the protection of software, videos and music that forced China to close many of the pirate factories producing illegally copied products at tremendous cost to American companies. Both speak Mandarin, and both played central roles in developing a negotiating strategy for persuading China to drop a range of restrictions on foreign companies, and to phase out protection for state-run industries.

But both said that the nonstop pace of negotiating with China — Mr. Sands has traveled there 61 times in six years — came at considerable cost to their families. Some of their colleagues said they were frustrated that the campaign scandals had all but frozen the development of Asia policy in Washington, making the Administration leery of capitalizing on China's recent offers to slowly open long-protected areas of its economy. The plans of the two negotiators were reported today in The Washington Post.

Their departure will come only a few months after the chief American trade negotiator with Japan, Ira Shapiro, announced that he would leave to return to private law practice in Washington.

In a telephone interview today from Washington, Charlene Barshefsky, Mr. Kantor's successor as trade representative, said that the departure of Mr. Sands and Ms. Lehr would be "a major loss." But she added, "I have a very good relationship with the Chinese as well." As Mr. Kantor's deputy, Ms. Barshefsky traveled to Beijing a dozen times and negotiated with China on a range of issues.

"We've never had negotiations that survived solely on individual personalities," she said. "In the end, the big decisions are made by the trade ministers."

The Administration's initial hope was to make China's entry into the World Trade Organization a centerpiece of President Jiang Zemin's visit to Washington next fall. And in recent months China has made major concessions, agreeing, for example, to give direct trading rights to foreign companies. Until now, to distribute products in China most companies have had to work through state-run trading houses.

But the hardest part of the negotiations, concerning subsidies to inefficient Chinese state industries that would be greatly harmed by open competition, are just beginning. They are likely to be taken over by Robert Cassidy, a longtime negotiator with extensive experience in Asia.

Mr. Cassidy will also find himself trying to keep together a coalition of countries with interests in China's entry into the World Trade Organization. Japan and others have been urging that China be admitted quickly, so it can be more fully integrated into the club of trading nations.

The United States, a senior Japanese official said last week in Tokyo, "is pressing too hard for major concessions" from China, and delaying the day when Beijing is forced to lower its tariffs and meet other obligations of the worldwide trade agreement. American officials respond that Japan is seeking to ingratiate itself with Beijing while hoping to take advantage of market openings won by American negotiators.

Gus/Stands is not a problem

European Nations Are Told They Need Tough Budget Cut

By Bloomberg News

FRANKFURT, April 15 — Efforts by European countries to narrow budget deficits have been unsatisfactory, and governments must be prepared to make painful spending cuts, the European Monetary Institute said today.

The institute, which is the forerunner to a European central bank, said countries that depended on extra tax revenues instead of spending cuts might not achieve the fiscal discipline required to adopt Europe's planned common currency in 1999.

In Denmark, France, Italy and Portugal, budget deficits last year declined "as a consequence of larger, albeit at times temporary, increases in government receipts," the institute added in its 1996 report.

Last year, most nations "had not yet achieved a situation which, in a broader view, might be judged as sustainable in the medium term," the report said.

It singled out the Netherlands, Britain and Ireland for reducing their 1996 deficits by cutting spending.

To qualify for the final stage of European economic and monetary union, countries must hold their budget deficits to 3 percent of e nomic output and their debt to percent of output. Entrants will selected in early 1998 on the basis 1997 economic data.

The institute said countries m take into account the effects of buc et-cutting efforts amid persistent employment and demograph changes, specifically an aging po lation. Too many cuts to public vestment could hurt growth, warned.

Only Ireland has increased g ernment investment as a share economic output since 1993 wh also managing to reduce its defi ratio, the institute said. In Belgiu Greece, Spain, Austria, Finland a Sweden, deficits last year were duced by a combination of spendi cuts and higher tax receipts.

The institute noted that only G many's budget deficit had increas as a proportion of output last ye But analysts said the institute's co ments over all would actually s port Germany's chances of ent "This is good for Germany, who solid fiscal performance has be worsened by unification," said Jö Kraemer, an economist at Merr Lynch Ltd.

U.S. Postpones a Threat on European Mea

BRUSSELS, April 15 (Reuters) — The United States has postponed until April 30 threatened action against European Union meat imports to allow trans-Atlantic talks on veterinary standards to continue, a European Commission spokesman said today.

Washington had said that if no deal was reached by today it would remove more than 100 European meat and poultry plants from its list of approved exporters. Such a move could halt up to $300 million worth of meat shipments to the United States, mostly pork products from Denmark and ham from Italy.

At issue in the dispute are veterinary inspections of imported animal products.

On April 1, the 15-nation European Union introduced rules that United States officials say block about $100 million worth of United States exports to Europe.

A United States Agriculture Department official said Monday th European negotiators would he back to Washington for tal Wednesday. Agreement was repo ed to be close except over poult imports, and word was awaited fro the United States about whether deal could be reached that exclud poultry for now.

The complicated talks, which b gan three years ago, have covered wide range of issues and sectors i cluding beef and pork, poultry, p food, dairy and eggs.

The New York Times
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1997

Copied Sperling Tarullo COS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-18-97

April 13, 1997

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL FOR THE PRESIDENT

TO:	State Representative Ciro D. Rodriguez (D), candidate for TX-28 Congressional District	
DATE:	April 13	210-927-6050 (Home) 210-601-7014 (mobile) 210-415-3243 (mobile)
	April 14	210-927-6050 (Home) 210-921-0605 (office)
RECOMMENDED BY:	Craig Smith and Cynthia Jasso-Rotunno, Political Affairs	

PURPOSE: To congratulate Ciro Rodriguez on his election as U.S. Representative for the San Antonio-based 28th Congressional District of Texas. Ciro succeeds the late Congressman Frank Tejeda (D) who died January 30th of pneumonia following a battle with brain cancer. The results of the April 12 run off are as follows:

	% of Vote	Vote Total
Ciro Rodriguez, State Representative (D)	66.7%	19,915
Juan Solis, ex-San Antonio City Councilman (D)	33.3%	9, 962

Rodriguez is a progressive, pro-choice, labor candidate. He has strong field operations, labor endorsements, and campaign finances. Rodriguez had more than 200 people canvassing the streets on Saturday. In the early vote count, Rodriguez received 75% and Solis received 25%.

In a 15-candidate special election on March 15, Rodriguez received 46% and Solis received 27% of the vote. Since the special election, Solis positioned himself as a conservative, pro-business candidate supporting pro-life and anti-gun control initiatives, and is endorsed by the National Right-to-Life Coalition. *Attached are additional talking points on the race and an April 13 article from the San Antonio Express Newspaper.*

BACKGROUND: Ciro Rodriguez, 40, is a 10-year veteran of the Texas legislature. He is a former teacher, social worker and served on the

Harlandale School Board in the 1970s. Ciro is married to Carolina (pronounced Car-o-LEAN-a) Rodriguez, and they have a daughter, Xochil (pronounced SEW-chel).

The special election and the run-off were bitter, hard-fought battles. It divided the Tejeda political machine, also known as the Southside coalition. The Tejeda family supported Juan Solis, and the Tejeda political machinery backed Rodriguez. The Tejeda family includes County Commissioner Robert Tejeda, cousin of the late Cong. Frank Tejeda. The Tejeda political machinery, includes State Representative John Longoria, State Senator Frank Madla, and Frank Wing--a former Clinton appointee at HUD. There supposedly was a television interview with Cong. Tejeda's daughter on April 11 that criticized Solis for using her father's likeness in campaign ads without consulting with the Tejeda children.

The Texas 28 congressional district is a Hispanic-majority district, stretching for more than 250 miles from south San Antonio to Starr County along the U.S/Mexican border in the Rio Grande Valley. The district is about three/fifths Hispanic (1990 census). In 1996, You received more than 80% of the vote in this district.

Submitted: April 13, 1997

ACTION: _____

_____

_____

_____

Talking Points
Phone call to Ciro Rodriguez

- Rodriguez campaign themes focused on his support for education, Social Security, Kelly AFB, and his opposition to Speaker Newt Gingrich (R). His campaign had more than 200 people walking the streets on Saturday, April 12.

- Rodriguez received a unanimous endorsement by the local labor council of the AFL/CIO.

- Rodriguez had a strong financial advantage reporting donations of more than $130,000 (FEC mid-March), and current donations of more than $250,000, according to his campaign aides. Solis reported $29,665 (FEC mid-March) and $40,000, according to his campaign.

- Both candidates aired campaign commercials. Rodriguez's TV ads focused on education and protecting Social Security. Solis's TV ads aired the last week of the campaign and focused on his alliance with the Tejeda family and his own family values. The National Right-to-Life Coalition ran pro-life and anti-abortion issue ads on radio stating each candidate's record on abortion.

- Rodriguez's campaign team includes Andres Gonzalez (field organization) and the Aldrete communications group from MAP--Message, Audience and Presentation (media component).

Special Election ★
Congressional District 28

Rodriguez captures runoff to claim spot in U.S. House

By Bruce Davidson
Express-News Political Editor

State Rep. Ciro Rodriguez defeated former San Antonio City Councilman Juan Solis by a 2-to-1 margin Saturday in a special congressional election runoff.

He will succeed U.S. Rep. Frank Tejeda, who died of cancer Jan. 30.

Rodriguez, 50, is expected to resign his position in the Texas House this week, or next week at the latest. Gov. George W. Bush then will call a special election for the Bexar County legislative post.

``It's a humbling experience, in all honesty," Rodriguez said. ``I'm real pleased that we were able to stay positive and just talk about the issues."

Thanking all his supporters, Rodriguez added: ``It was a community effort."

The vote totals must be canvassed before the election is official, and that process could take several days.

The congressman-elect said he wants to go to work in Congress as soon as possible.

``I need to really hit the ground running," Rodriguez said.

He has been giving the bills he is sponsoring in the Legislature to colleagues in preparation for his departure.

Democratic congressional leadership already had committed to give the winner of the election a seat on the National Security Committee, Rodriguez said.

A second committee assignment still is in limbo, he said.

Solis accepted the defeat gracefully, wishing Rodriguez ``the best of luck."

``Obviously, I'm a little disappointed. Who wouldn't be?" Solis said. ``But I feel proud of what we have accomplished."

Solis, 35, said he is likely to run for another office someday.

Turnout was low, but higher than observers had expected. Unofficial returns had 29,877 votes cast, or 9 percent of the district's registered voters, and almost equaling the first race.

Observers said some San Antonio voters were confused by the overlapping campaigns of the congressional candidates and City Council contenders. Municipal elections will be May 3.

The congressional district includes most of the southern section and eastern portion of Bexar County.

Rodriguez netted 46 percent of the vote in a 15- candidate field running in the first round on March 15, and he always was viewed as the front-runner in the runoff.

Solis got 26.5 percent of the March 15 vote.

Rodriguez, who was able to raise more than three times as much money as Solis, mounted a superior grass-roots organization across the district and advertised heavily on television.

Solis managed to get an ad on TV in the final week of the campaign, but he was unable to match Rodriguez's ground troops.

The former city councilman attempted to build a coalition of conservative Democrats and Republicans, and he hoped a low turnout would give him a chance to prevail.

The district includes all or parts of 13 South Texas counties and Solis managed narrow margins in only Jim Hogg and Wilson counties. The heavily Democratic district has about 62 percent of the voters living in Bexar County.

The candidates clashed on issues such as gun control, term limits and abortion.

Rodriguez supports the Brady law, which requires a five-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun. He also supports abortion rights and opposes term limits.

Solis wants to review the Brady law. He is anti- abortion, and he favors term limits.

Rodriguez focused his campaign on vows to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, as well as a commitment to furthering educational opportunities.

Solis called himself ``fiscally conservative, but socially responsible.'' He touted his support from Tejeda's family, including County Commissioner Robert Tejeda.

Both candidates said they would fight to help smooth the transition as Kelly AFB's depot closes, and both offered strong support for veterans' benefits.

The runoff concludes an election process that initially was noteworthy for the potential candidates who decided not to run.

State Sen. Frank Madla, Robert Tejeda, former City Councilman Frank Wing, Justice of the Peace Edmundo Zaragoza and former Democratic U.S. Senate nominee Victor Morales all opted not to enter the race after giving it consideration.

Rodriguez was able to quickly build an organization, and he gained AFL-CIO endorsements, giving him a huge financial advantage in the first round of the election.

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E-mail the editor
Back to Welcome Page

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 4/18

To: Martha Foley
Barbara Chow

From: The Staff Secretary

Supplemental budget
reqst for DOE (Brookhaven),
Forest Service and JFK Records
Commission.

Any comment?

Thx

cc: Sylvia Matthews; John Podesta

Estimate No. _____
105th Congress, 1st Session

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

'97 APR 17 PM8:48

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available emergency appropriations totaling $8.6 million in budget authority for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. Your approval of this request would make available contingent emergency funds appropriated in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997. These funds would be used to repair damage from Hurricanes, Fran and Hortense.

The Forest Service reports that surveys have been completed and work begun on repair projects but that insufficient funds are available from regular appropriations to complete the needed work. The release of these funds would allow road, trail and facility reconstruction, and natural resource damage repair work to go forward in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina (Hurricane Fran) and Puerto Rico (Hurricane Hortense).

I recommend that you designate this request as an emergency funding requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. No further congressional action will be required.

Also submitted for your consideration is a FY 1997 supplemental proposal for the Department of Energy to provide $19.7 million for tritium remediation and related activities. $19.7 million previously provided for the Superconducting Super Collider will be used to fund the tritium remediation efforts and to restore other funds used for these activities. Budget totals will not be affected.

Finally, submitted for your consideration is a FY 1998 budget amendment to provide $1.6 million to the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board. This funding is needed to allow the Board to complete its work and put to rest lingering concern about the disclosure of assassination-related information and records to the public. The amendment would, also, provide full funding for all close-out costs of the Board. FY 1998 will be the Board's last year. The increased funding requested for the Board would be offset by a proposed reduction to the Maritime Security Program of the Department of Transportation. This reduction to the Marine Security Program is possible, without adverse effect on the program, as a result of re-estimates of balances and delays in signing contracts.

I have carefully reviewed these proposals and am satisfied they are necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the heads of affected departments and agencies in recommending that you approve these requests by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Franklin D. Raines
Director

Enclosures

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

National Forest System	$3,395,000
Reconstruction and Construction	$5,210,000

Title IV of the FY 1997 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contained in Public Law 104-208, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997, provided $8,605,000 in contingent emergency funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service to make hurricane damage repairs. The availability of these funds was made contingent upon Presidential notification to the Congress of the designation of this funding as an emergency requirement.

The release of these funds would allow road, trail and facility reconstruction, and natural resource damage repair work to go forward in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina (Hurricane Fran) and Puerto Rico (Hurricane Hortense).

FY 1997 Supplemental Request

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

General Science and Research Activities

In addition, from amounts appropriated for activities of the Superconducting Super Collider under this head in Public Law 103-126, not to exceed $19,700,000 shall be transferred to "Energy Supply Research and Development" to restore funds used for, and to continue conduct of, activities associated with tritium remediation at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

This proposal would provide $19.7 million necessary to continue the tritium remediation program at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

FY 1997 outlays for the Superconducting Super Collider estimated in the FY 1998 Budget would be reduced by $5 million. Outlays resulting from the budget authority transferred to the Energy Supply Research and Development account would not exceed $5 million in FY 1997 because this action would occur so late in the fiscal year. Therefore, there would be no net increase in FY 1997 outlays resulting from this proposal.

This transfer of $19.7 million is in addition to the $15 million transfer of Superconducting Super Collider balances proposed in the FY 1998 budget. The $15 million transfer would also be from the General Sciences and Research account to the Energy Supply Research and Development account.

FY 1998 Budget Amendment

Agency:	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Bureau:	MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
Heading:	Maritime Security Program
FY 1998 Budget Appendix Page:	824
FY 1998 Pending Request:	$54,000,000
Proposed Amendment:	-$1,600,000
Revised Request:	$52,400,000

This amendment would reduce the amount requested for the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration's Maritime Security Program (MSP) by $1,600,000. MSP provides resources to maintain a U.S.-flag merchant fleet crewed by U.S. citizens to serve the commercial and national security needs of the U.S. The process of signing contracts took longer than anticipated, and the MSP's 1997 carryover balance will be higher than previously expected. This reduction, therefore, will have no adverse effect on the program.

This proposal would decrease FY 1998 outlays by $1,600,000. This amendment would be used to offset a requested increase of $1,600,000 for FY 1998 funding for the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board in an accompanying amendment. The combination of these two proposals would have a net outlay effect of zero.

FY 1998 Budget Amendment

Agency:	JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD
Heading:	John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board
FY 1998 Budget Appendix Page:	1068
FY 1998 Pending Request:	---
Proposed Amendment:	$1,600,000
Revised Request:	$1,600,000

(Remove the brackets from the agency and heading above and from the appropriations language under this heading, and in the appropriations language insert ,including close-out costs, after "expenses" and delete "$2,150,000" and substitute $1,600,000.)

This amendment would provide $1,600,000 to the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board in FY 1998. FY 1998 funding for the Board, not anticipated at the time the FY 1998 Budget was prepared, is necessary in order to allow the Board to complete its work. Additional time is needed to work with the CIA and FBI to obtain and review the "sequestered collection" of JFK assassination files. Additionally, the amendment would provide the Review Board the time and resources necessary to put to rest lingering concern about the disclosure of assassination related information and records to the public. The amendment would provide full funding for all close-out costs of the Board.

FY 1998 will be the Board's last year. The Board will not seek funding beyond FY 1998. The Board will issue a final report upon its termination.

This proposal would increase FY 1998 outlays by $1,600,000. This amendment would be offset by a reduction of $1,600,000 in FY 1998 funding for the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration contained in an accompanying amendment. The combination of these two proposals would have a net outlay effect of zero.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The Speaker of the

House of Representatives

Sir:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 104-208, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997, I hereby make available appropriations totaling $8,605,000 in budget authority for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. These funds -- provided to two accounts: $3,395,000 for the National Forest System and $5,210,000 for Reconstruction and Construction -- will be used to repair damage from Hurricanes, Fran and Hortense.

I designate the amount made available as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

In addition, I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed FY 1997 supplemental request to make available to the Department of Energy for activities associated with tritium remediation $19,700,000 in funds previously provided for the Superconducting Super Collider.

This transmittal also contains two FY 1998 Budget amendments. These amendments would reduce the Department of Transportation's Maritime Security Program by $1,600,000 and provide $1,600,000 to the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

Enclosures