

(GILDER)

The President has seen 5/20

MAY 20, 1987

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RELEASE OF "WHAT WORKS" REPORT

THANK YOU, SECRETARY BENNETT.

TODAY, WE'RE PLEASED TO RELEASE A GOVERNMENT REPORT WITH SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME COMMON SENSE IN IT. THE THIRD IN SECRETARY BENNETT'S "WHAT WORKS" SERIES. IT'S CALLED SCHOOLS THAT WORK; EDUCATING DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN; AND IT SHOULD TOP THE SUMMER READING LIST OF EVERYONE WHO'S CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN OUR COUNTRY.

ITS MESSAGE IS SIMPLE; GOOD SCHOOLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BY GIVING STUDENTS THE KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED. GOOD SCHOOLS CAN HELP CHILDREN OVERCOME POVERTY. THEY GIVE OUR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN HOPE, STRENGTH, AND OPPORTUNITY -- THEY GIVE THEM A FUTURE.

AND THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT --

(AS SECRETARY BENNETT'S BOOK DESCRIBES IT)-
WE HAVE A NUMBER OF THESE SCHOOLS ALREADY,
SCHOOLS WINNING AGAINST THE ODDS, SCHOOLS
THAT GIVE THEIR STUDENTS JUST WHAT IT TAKES,
RESPECT FOR LEARNING, AND THE HABITS OF
HEART AND MIND THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR
ACHIEVEMENT. INSTEAD OF HIGH DROPOUT RATES,
THESE SCHOOLS PRODUCE HIGH TEST SCORES/
REGULAR ATTENDANCE/ AND IMPRESSIVE COLLEGE
PLACEMENT RECORDS. IN SCHOOLS SUCH AS
THESE, A CHILD'S HOME LIFE OR HIS PARENTS'
FINANCES AND EDUCATION ARE NO BARRIER TO
SUCCESS.

THESE ARE SCHOOLS LIKE CHAMBERS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN EAST CLEVELAND, OHIO/
WHERE THREE-QUARTERS OF THE STUDENTS ARE
POOR AND TWO-THIRDS COME FROM BROKEN HOMES
OR SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES/ BUT WHERE TEST
SCORES JUST KEEP GOING UP AND MOST STUDENTS
READ AND DO MATH AT OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL.

HOW DOES CHAMBERS ELEMENTARY DO IT?

PRINCIPAL JOSEPH (WAY-LEN) ACCENTUATES THE POSITIVE. HE RECITES THE PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE EVERY MORNING OVER THE PUBLIC

ADDRESS SYSTEM. HE INSISTS ON EXCELLENCE.

HE REWARDS STUDENTS FOR GOOD WORK.

HE ENCOURAGES PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED.

ONE FORMER STUDENT SAYS IT BEST, "ALL THAT SCHOOLWORK PREPARED ME TO ENTER HIGH SCHOOL AND LEAVE THERE AS A STRAIGHT "A"

STUDENT... ALL THOSE RULES TAUGHT ME RIGHT FROM WRONG... AT CHAMBERS I WAS SPECIAL."

THEN THERE ARE SCHOOLS LIKE HALES

FRANCISCAN HIGH SCHOOL IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

AT HALES FRANCISCAN, 300 YOUNG BLACK MEN FROM CHICAGO'S INNER CITY, MOST OF THEM POOR, MOST FROM SINGLE-PARENT HOMES,

ARE GIVEN AN ACADEMIC AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DESIGNED TO HELP THEM ESCAPE THE POVERTY TRAP AND GET INTO COLLEGE.

FATHER MARIO (D'CHEEKO), THE PRINCIPAL /
AND THE COMMUNITY OF FRANCISCAN FRIARS
AND LAY TEACHERS GIVE THEM WHAT IT TAKES /
A STRONG CORE CURRICULUM / LOTS OF HOMEWORK /
AND AN EMPHASIS ON VALUES THAT ENCOURAGES
MORAL JUDGMENT AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF EACH YEAR'S GRADUATES
GO ON TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, AS MANY
AS THREE-QUARTERS GO TO 4-YEAR COLLEGES.

YES, HALES FRANCISCAN HIGH SCHOOL WORKS.

AND SO DOES THE GASKINS FREEDOM YOUTH
ACADEMY RIGHT HERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

HENRY AND MARY ANN GASKINS HAVE FIVE
CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN AND EACH WORKS
FULL-TIME / BUT ~~THEY~~ FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT
EDUCATION THAT 6 YEARS AGO THEY OPENED THEIR
HOME TO NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN AND TURNED IT
INTO A THRIVING AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

TODAY, DR. AND MRS. GASKINS TUTOR
75 CHILDREN, FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH
12TH GRADE / GIVING POOR AND MINORITY
STUDENTS ONE-ON-ONE ATTENTION IN ALL SUBJECT
AREAS /- EVEN COMPUTERS. / THEY TRY TO
"BLEND GOODNESS OF CHARACTER WITH
INTELLECTUAL SKILLS." / AND THEIR STUDENTS
RESPOND /- HERE, TOO, WE FIND RISING
ACHIEVEMENT SCORES AND THE ATTITUDES
NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS.

THESE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS MAY SEEM
MIRACULOUS / BUT THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE
NO MYSTERY. / THEY CAN BE DUPLICATED OVER AND
OVER AGAIN, ALL AROUND AMERICA. / AND THEY
SHOULD BE / WE KNOW HOW IT'S DONE.

IT'S DONE THROUGH THE EFFORT OF ADULTS WHO
CARE / MEN AND WOMEN WHO NEVER SAY DIE / AND
WHO STICK TO TRADITIONAL VALUES AND THE
BASIC PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE
SECRET TO GOOD EDUCATION.

FIRST / SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR
DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN ARE SCHOOLS THAT
BELIEVE THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. } THEY
DON'T USE POVERTY AS AN EXCUSE FOR FAILURE.
AND THEY DON'T WAIT AROUND FOR NEW FEDERAL
PROGRAMS BEFORE THEY START TO DO THEIR JOBS.
THEIR BUSINESS IS CHILDREN / AND THEIR FIRST
AND MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THOSE CHILDREN
IS / NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU'RE
FROM, YOU CAN LEARN.

SECOND / SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR THE
DISADVANTAGED ARE SCHOOLS THAT HELP THEIR
STUDENTS DEVELOP THE SAME QUALITIES OF
CHARACTER / AND THE SAME VALUES THAT MOST
AMERICANS WANT FOR THEIR CHILDREN.
THEY KNOW THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS BLACK
VALUES AND WHITE VALUES / OR POOR VALUES AND
RICH ONES. } THEY KNOW THERE ARE ONLY BASIC
AMERICAN VALUES. } THEY KNOW THAT LOWER
STANDARDS ARE DOUBLE STANDARDS ↙- AND DOUBLE
STANDARDS ARE WRONG.

EFFORT, HOMEWORK, DISCIPLINE, VALUES,
AND QUALITY TEACHING ARE THE BEST ANY
EDUCATION CAN OFFER /- TO ANY STUDENT /
INCLUDING A POOR DISADVANTAGED CHILD.

FINALLY, SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR
DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN ARE, (WELL,)
OLD-FASHIONED. } THEY DON'T GO FOR TRICKS.
THEY USE WHAT'S TRIED AND TRUE /
CLEAR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR / LONG HOURS,
HARD WORK, AND MEASURABLE GOALS. } THEY TEACH
THE BASICS /- READING, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE,
AND WRITING. } AND THEY TEACH ABOUT
AMERICA /- OUR HISTORY, LITERATURE,
OUR GREAT HEROES, / AND OUR DEMOCRATIC
PRINCIPLES.

IN FACT, SECRETARY BENNETT TELLS ME THAT ONE OF THE MOST STRIKING THINGS THAT HE'S LEARNED IN HIS MANY VISITS TO OUR NATION'S CLASSROOMS, IS THAT THOSE SCHOOLS WHICH INSTILL A SENSE OF PATRIOTISM IN THEIR STUDENTS - (BY SAYING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OR SINGING THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER) - INVARIABLY ARE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL.

STUDY AFTER STUDY TELLS US THAT EDUCATION IS THE SUREST WAY FOR INDIVIDUALS TO RISE ABOVE POVERTY. WE'VE DONE A LOT IN THE UNITED STATES TO GUARANTEE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION TO ALL OUR CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THE DISADVANTAGED. WE'VE SPENT GENEROUSLY ON EDUCATION, MORE THAN ANY OTHER NATION ON EARTH.

BUT TOO MANY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN ARE STILL NOT GETTING THE EDUCATION THEY NEED. IN SOME CASES, WE MAY HAVE SPENT MONEY ON THE WRONG THINGS.

IN SOME OTHERS, WE MAY HAVE TRIED TO FIX
WHAT WASN'T BROKEN IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT WHATEVER THE REASON -- WE CAN DO BETTER.

AND WE HAVE TO, BECAUSE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO
EDUCATION IS SIMPLY NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

AMERICANS NEED UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY
EDUCATION -- EDUCATION THAT WORKS.

I JUST YESTERDAY HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO
SPEAK TO THE GRADUATING SENIORS OF THE
HAMILTON COUNTY-CHATTANOOGA CITY HIGH
SCHOOLS, ALL 13 OF THEM. BELIEVE ME,
EVENTS LIKE THOSE ARE ONE OF THE BEST THINGS
ABOUT BEING PRESIDENT. BEFORE ME WERE
THOUSANDS OF BRIGHT, EAGER STUDENTS, READY
TO TAKE ON THE WORLD. AMERICA IS LUCKY TO
HAVE YOUTH LIKE THOSE /- LIKE THE YOUNG
PEOPLE ONE MEETS ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY /-
AND I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL IT'S OUR DUTY
TO GIVE THEM THE VERY BEST EDUCATION WE CAN
POSSIBLY PROVIDE.

IT'S OUR DUTY TO THEM, / AND OUR DUTY TO OUR
NATION, / BECAUSE THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE
AMERICA'S FUTURE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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