

OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM THE OFFICE OF: **CAROL H. RASCO**
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR DOMESTIC POLICY

TO: _____

NOV 10 REC'D

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CHR BY: _____

PLEASE REPLY (COPY TO CHR): _____

PLEASE ADVISE BY: _____

LET'S DISCUSS: _____

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: _____

REPLY USING FORM CODE: _____

FILE: _____

RETURN ORIGINAL TO CHR: _____

SCHEDULE: *Review at next meeting*

REMARKS:

AMERICAN FORUM



NOV 10 REC'D

November 9, 1993

Accept

Trustees: At Large

Jean P. Boone
Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley
Edward S. Grandis
Gwen McKinney
Karen Mulhauser
Arlie W. Schardt

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
c/o Old Executive Office Building
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC

1st Amend. Room

12:00-1:00
lo

State Representatives

Mary Weidler, *Alabama*
Charlene Carres, *Florida*
Malkia M'Buzi Moore, *Georgia*
Dee Reid, *North Carolina*
Tom Turnipseed, *South Carolina*
Pat Franklin, *Virginia*

Dear Ms. Rasco,

It is with great pleasure that I write to invite you to be a guest speaker at the American Forum's upcoming conference which will be held on Friday, December 10-12 in Washington, DC.

I am writing at the suggestion of one of our editorial board members, (Ernie Dumas). Ernie is a board member of the Arkansas Forum which was established last year, and the Arkansas representative on our national board. He thought you would be interested in learning about the American Forum, a nonprofit organization that helps to stimulate greater citizen participation in public policy debate through the distribution of op-ed commentary pieces by state experts to the print and broadcast media.

The American Forum is committed to strengthening citizen participation in democracy by stimulating a free exchange of information through the media. Too often, particularly at the state level, citizens feel left out of the policy debate. The American Forum, through its state editorial boards, helps to improve the quality of debate on public policy concerns by providing experts with access to the print and broadcast media.

Recent articles produced by the Arkansas Forum, for example, have included a discussion on children's health care by Dr. Charles Fields of the Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Each Forum board operates as an independent "citizen think tank" identifying topics for articles, and experts to write about such issues as health care, education, and the environment. A media packet, which includes the op-ed, a press release and a public service announcement, is distributed to all print and broadcast outlets in a given state.

The American Forum has state editorial boards operating in twelve Southern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and can reach on average more than 5.9 million households via print and 10.75 million listeners and viewers by radio and television. These "citizen think tanks" have prepared and distributed over 400 media packets on a wide-range of quality of life issues to the state and local media. The media's high usage of these materials attests to the commitment and expertise of these boards.

Denice Zeck
Executive Director

National Press Building
Suite 1250
529 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20045-1203
Phone: (202) 638-1431
Fax: (202) 638-1434

(501) 663-7180

To help us realize the full potential of the program, we are holding a strategic planning conference on December 10 - 12th where we will bring together more than seventy of our editorial board members from twelve Southern states. At the conference we will discuss the important role of the media in helping to build support for progressive change.

As a project committed to stimulating greater public policy discussion through the state and local media in the South, we would be interested in hearing from you about the Administration's key policy concerns that might be of interest to our editorial boards.

Although I realize your schedule is very busy, we were hoping you could spare some time to speak directly to the Forum's editorial board members. I thought you might be interested in seeing the list of board members from the various state Forums. The individuals who made up our state editorial boards are some of the most effective grassroots leaders in their states and are leading the fight for change.

We are particularly excited by the number of Arkansas board members who will be attending the conference: Don Hollingsworth, Chair of our Arkansas Forum, Mary Dillard (Vice Chair), Gretchen Lile (Secretary) and Ernie Dumas (State Representative), Zack Pollete, and Anne Clancy.

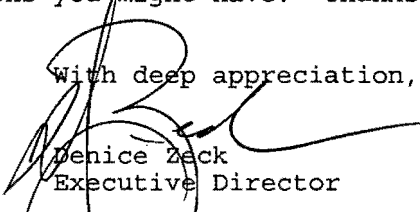
Maggie Williams, Chief of Staff to the First Lady, is a former board member of the American Forum and, I'm sure would be more than happy to talk with you about the Forum and our efforts.

The conference will provide a great opportunity to speak to our editorial boards -- now representing twelve southern states -- about the Administration's priorities on health care, and other critical policy issues. We believe that the Forum's ability to speak directly to the public and policymakers through the state and local media can play an important role in helping to assure that a progressive agenda moves forward in the south...and in the nation.

We would be honored if you would agree to be a guest speaker at our luncheon on Friday at the (National Press Club.) If that date is not convenient we would be more than willing to work around your schedule and your time constraints. The conference will continue on Saturday and Sunday at the Washington Marriott.

Your involvement would mean a great deal to the American Forum and our state editorial boards. I would welcome an opportunity to talk with you further and to answer any questions you might have. Thanks again for your consideration of this request.

With deep appreciation,


Denise Zack
Executive Director

P.S. We were deeply gratified to receive a letter recently from President Clinton commending the author of a Mississippi Forum article on gays in the military. After twelve long years it's certainly nice to know that we have a friend in the White House.

→ 1st Amendment Room



ARKANSAS FORUM

P.O. Box 251107
Little Rock, AR 72225-1107

August 18, 1993

Memo: Arkansas Forum Article on The Budget Bill and Arkansas Taxpayers
To: Editors
From: Edmund Rennolds, Editor

Enclosed is a discussion of critical importance that we think your audience will find of great interest.

The author is Ernest Dumas, Journalist in Residence at the University of Central Arkansas. Dumas, former associate editor of the Arkansas Gazette, can be reached at (501) 663-7180 (in Little Rock).

The Arkansas Forum, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, provides the media with the views of state experts on major public concerns in order to stimulate informed discussion. This material is for your free, unrestricted use.

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ARKANSAS FORUM

P.O. Box 251107
Little Rock, AR 72225-1107

June 30, 1993

Memo: Re Arkansas Forum Article on Children's Health Care
To: Editors
From: Edmund Rennolds, Editor

Enclosed is a discussion of critical importance that we think your audience will find of great interest.

The author, Dr. Charles Feild, is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Arkansas Medical School. He can be reached at (501) 320-1438 (in Little Rock).

The Arkansas Forum, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, provides the media with the views of state experts on major public concerns in order to stimulate informed discussion. This material is for your free, unrestricted use.

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FRIDAY
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Future for 177,000 uninsured Arkansas children?

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By Dr. Charles Feild

If we value our children and consider them America's future, we must quickly find a way, as we reform the nation's health care system, to provide medical care to every child, says an expert on children's health care for Arkansas.

A 1990 study by the Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families determined that at least 20 percent of Arkansas children under 18 years of age were uninsured. More recently, an analysis by the non-profit Southern Institute on Children and Families revealed that an even higher percentage — translating into 177,000 children — were without health insurance in Arkansas.

These studies may well understate the magnitude of this crisis, says Dr. Charles Feild. "We know that many more Arkansas children are underinsured — their policies fail to cover essential preventive and primary services."

Feild, an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Arkansas Medical School, says that while minority children are much more likely than white children to be wholly uninsured, nationwide whites account for 76 percent of uninsured children. Similarly, even though poor children are more

than twice as likely to be uninsured as the non-poor, those with family incomes above the poverty level account for two-thirds of all uninsured children.

"It would cost relatively little to provide these young people, who represent our future, with basic health care," says Feild, in an article published by the *Arkansas Forum*. "Nationally, the average child's full medical costs are only \$1,000 per year. Moreover, we are surely spending far more by denying them this care."

The cost-effectiveness of providing medical care to children and pregnant women is dramatic, says Feild. "We know, for example, that every \$1 invested in prenatal care saves \$3 in later costs and every \$1 spent now on childhood immu-

Dr. Charles Feild is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock. It is submitted by the Arkansas Forum — a non-profit, non-partisan organization which provides views of state experts to media to stimulate informed discussion on major public concerns.

nizations saves \$10 later in life. Yet, many American women still give birth without ever having seen a doctor, and our nation has one of the worst immunization records of any industrialized nation. We know also that children who lack comprehensive health coverage are less apt to get adequate preventive and primary care, and are more likely to experience illness and expensive hospital stays for preventable diseases."

Beyond the high financial costs of not providing adequate health care to our children are the social costs, notes Feild. Children fighting disease or disability have less chance to learn, achieve and become productive citizens.

Nor are such problems limited to the many children who lack basic health coverage, Feild notes. "Even families which do have insurance rarely have appropriate coverage. A child with an undetected vision or hearing problem who sits at the back of the classroom can develop permanent learning and emotional disabilities. Comprehensive screening for such conditions should be a routine part of our health care. Yet, as with immunization, 90 percent of all private insurance policies do not cover such screening."

Notes,
Etc.

By Bill
Rutherford



Children and health

A recent study noted that 20 percent of the children in Arkansas are not covered by health insurance. That's 177,000 children.

The study was made in 1990 by Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and is cited in a recent article in the Arkansas Forum by Dr. Charles Feild, a pediatrician and associate professor at the University of Arkansas.

The number of uninsured children is sufficient proof that there is a problem, but Feild goes further in noting that many of those children who are covered are in fact underinsured.

Feild deals daily with pediatric care or the lack of it. Listen to what he says about the state of the children, even many of those who do have health coverage: "We know that many more Arkansas children are underinsured -- their policies fail to cover essential and primary services.

"It would cost relatively little to provide these young people, who represent our future, with basic health care, Feild says in the article. "Nationally, the average child's full medical costs are only \$1,000 per year. Moreover, we are surely spending far more by denying them this care."

Feild bolsters his argument with this statement on cost-effectiveness: "We know, for example, that every \$1 invested in prenatal care saves \$3 in later costs and every \$1 spent now on childhood immunizations saves \$10 later in life."

Children without adequate health coverage, Feild notes, "are more likely to experience illness and expensive hospital stays for preventable diseases."

There is a social cost too. "Children fighting disease or disability have less chance to learn, achieve and become productive citizens."

Appropriate health coverage also is important, Feild says, warning that the problem is broader than most of us think. "Even families which do have insurance rarely have appropriate coverage," he writes. "A child with an undetected vision or hearing problem who sits at the back of the classroom can develop permanent learning and emotional disabilities. Comprehensive screening for such conditions should be a routine part of our health care. Yet, as with immunization, 90 percent of all private insurance policies do not cover such screening."

The Arkansas Forum is an educational organization that publishes comments by Arkansas professionals and experts on major public issues. Feild's article points out the depth of the problem of uninsured young people. But, as he notes, the problem of appropriate coverage is widespread too.

The headline on the article states, "What Is the Future for 177,000 Kids in Arkansas Lacking Health Insurance?"

The problem, of course, is not limited to Arkansas, and as Feild writes "If we value our children and consider them America's future we must quickly find a way, as we reform the nation's health care system, to provide medical care to every child."

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MEMPHIS, TN

CAROL STAR-HERALD

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1993

COL Robert S. McGowan, USA (Ret)
c/o Mississippi Forum
Post Office Box 3515
Jackson, Mississippi 39207-3515

Dear Robert:

Bill Winter shared your recent column with me, and I want to thank you. As I wrote Governor Winter, your column is very reassuring to me.

I do think the new policy strikes a sensible balance between the rights of individuals and the needs of the military.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton



Forcing the Military to Come Out of the Closet

By Robert S. McGowan,

Despite the military's current ban against homosexuals, gays and lesbians are in every branch of the armed forces, and have been for some time. The actual number of gays in the military would probably prove astounding, if it were known. They, like the vast majority of others who have joined the military, serve with honor, dedication and dignity; they have, until recently, kept their sexual orientation secret.

During my years of service, from 1947 to 1978, I participated in the much-feared desegregation of the military. Blacks served with distinction in my tank, in my platoon and in my company during the Korean War. Later, during my three tours of duty in Vietnam, which spanned 9 years, I left my blood on that battlefield along with so many others. It all ran red.

By that time, men of color made up 85 percent of my cavalry squadron. Every one of the soldiers in the squadron was brave and loyal and did the best he could. I suspect just a few gays served under my command. I suspect just a few of the 64 soldiers who died under my command, following my orders, were gay. And I can assure you, I cried at the death of each of my soldiers. I cared not his race, his ethnic background, his religious beliefs. Nor would I have cared, had I known, what his sexual orientation might have been.

Because gays have served in the armed forces for many years, in every national cemetery throughout the country are hallowed graves of soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought and died in combat who were gay. Or those who retired honorably and died of natural causes who were gay.

The issue, therefore, is not whether gays make good soldiers. From the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff down to the lowest assistant squad leader, the present chain of command knows that gays make good soldiers, competent soldiers, soldiers who can be relied upon in war, and when getting ready to fight the next war.

The issue is that gays, at least a few gays, want to be recognized as an identifiable group. On the other side of the debate are those who would prefer that gays remain in the closet, and that the military continue to be a club for "real" men and women only. They argue that gays would sully the reputation of the military. Gays would not be accepted, they assert, and would be harassed, ridiculed, beat up and murdered, as some have been already.

So there appears to be an irreconcilable impasse, at least in the trenches. But those in the trenches do not issue the orders. The orders are issued by the commander in chief, the president of the United States.

And the president and every member of the armed forces have pledged to uphold the Constitution of the United States. That Constitution ensures that no man or woman will be subjected to discrimination due to race, gender, religion, disability or ethnic origin. Just add to the list of "no discrimination allowed" the category of sexual orientation and be done with it.

Instead of thrashing at the windmill of whether gays should serve, there are many subsidiary issues the military must solve. For example, is base housing available to a same-sex couple? Can such a couple be considered a family? What about medical, PX and commissary privileges? Survivor benefits? A heterosexual couple living together but not married enjoys none of these benefits. Should a gay couple? What about ID cards? Can two individuals of the same sex be legally married? What documentation would be necessary for such a union? What about the children of a gay parent, natural or adopted -- what are their rights as military dependents?

These issues should keep the Pentagon planners and managers busy for years. In the meantime, gays should continue to serve, as they do now. Those few generals, admirals, colonels and captains who are threatening to resign out of indignation or because of their inability to follow the orders of their commander in chief should do so and get out of the way.

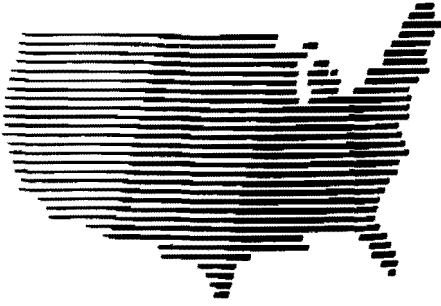
The opportunity to serve our nation must not be denied to any group or individual, just because they might be "different." We should permit gays and lesbians who so wish continue to do as they have always done -- to offer their lives in service to country.

McGowan, a Jackson resident and a retired Army colonel, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, four Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts.

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06/93

AMERICAN FORUM



Organization: American Forum
National Press Bldg.
529 14th Street N.W.
Suite 1250
Washington, DC 20045
(202) 638-1431

AMERICAN FORUM MISSION

American Forum is a national clearinghouse for editorial opinion, organized through individual Forums in each participating state which function as editorial boards. American forum provides professionally prepared and easily used materials to print and broadcast media seeking commentary from an in-state point of view. It gives prominent and authoritative proponents of progressive measures an audience in their own communities and greater access to modern means of communication.

THE PROGRAM

The American Forum is operating in eleven Southern states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia and can reach on a monthly basis 5.9 million households through the print media and over 10.75 million adults via radio and tv.

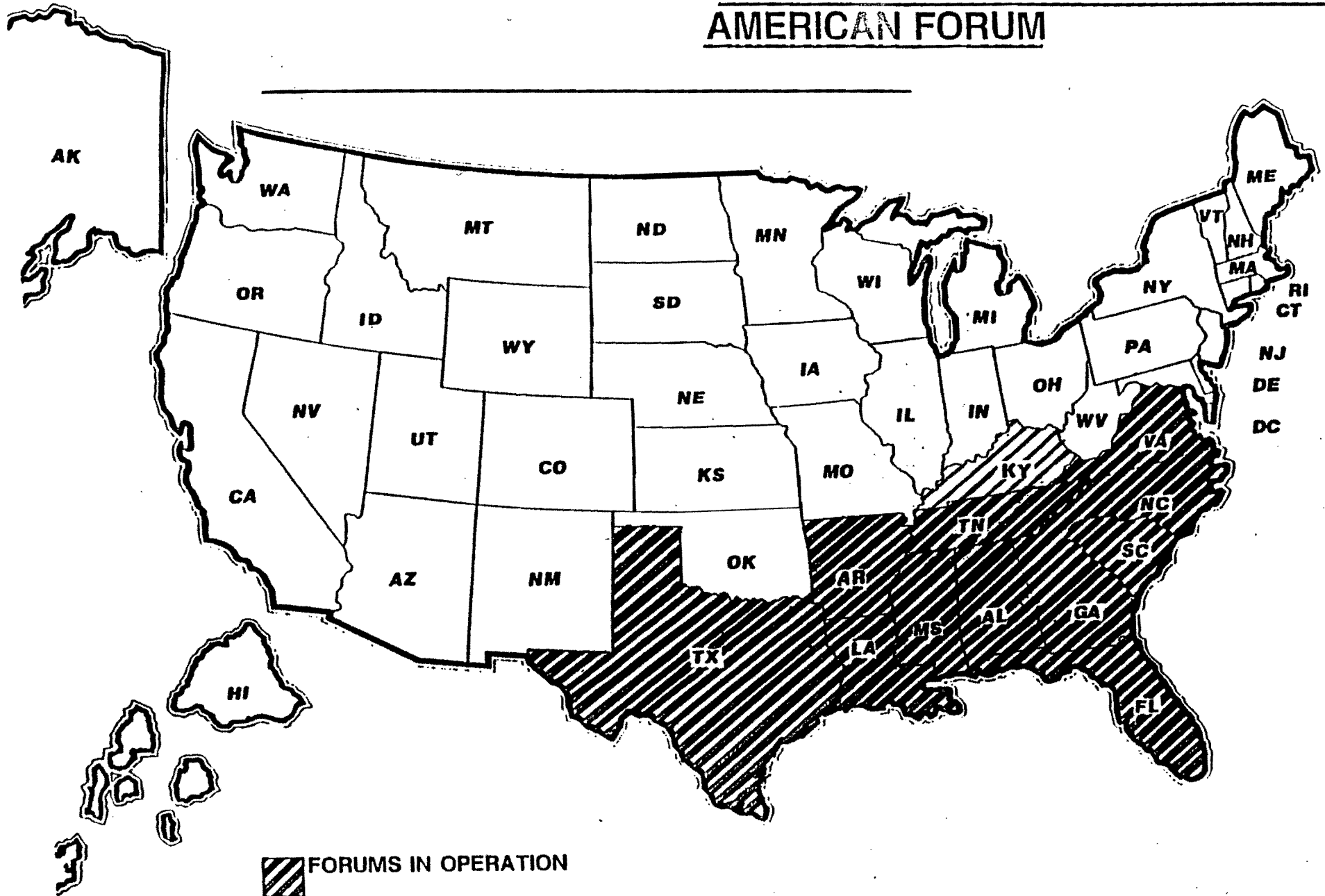
The key to our program is our state editorial boards which serve as "think tanks" identifying story concepts and authors. The American Forum provides the state editorial boards with production, fundraising and other logistical assistance. This model maximizes ownership at the state level, minimizes cost and most importantly frees the members of each of these citizen "think tanks" to do what they do best: To identify creative solutions to society's most urgent problems.

Each media packet is sent out in the form of an op-ed article for use by the print media and a shorter press release and public service announcement for use by the broadcast stations. The message reaches on average 25 to 33 percent of the households in a given state via print and 40 percent of the adult listeners/viewers via the broadcast media.

Over one-third of the state media uses a given Forum piece. This reflects the media's hunger for intelligent commentary on state issues and the skill of the citizen think tanks who meet in each of the Forum states to determine topics, authors, and timing of media packets, which capture the intellectual power of local experts. While speaking to wide ranging "quality-of-life" issues such as infant mortality, illiteracy, toxic wastes, and the death penalty, the discussions are typically framed in such terms of cost-benefit ratios to create a consensus for progressive change.

American Forum illustrates, we think, the genius of American federalism, with its emphasis on local initiative. This focus is particularly important in the context of the historic transfer of decision making and responsibility to the states since 1980. Increasingly, the most innovative policies dealing with our society's problems are being formulated in the state houses -- where the forum hits home.

AMERICAN FORUM



 FORUMS IN OPERATION

 FORUMS IN DEVELOPMENT

AMERICAN FORUM: THE IMPACT AND POTENTIAL

Based on figures from our experience in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Virginia; and on research of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Kentucky state media data.

<u>State</u>	<u>Print</u>	<u>Radio listeners</u>	<u>TV viewers</u>
Alabama	350,000	500,000	350,000
Arkansas	300,000	400,000	200,000
Florida	1,000,000	1,300,000	800,000
Georgia	425,000	575,000	425,000
Kentucky	400,000	350,000	200,000
Louisiana	400,000	400,000	200,000
Mississippi	350,000	400,000	300,000
North Carolina	500,000	730,000	470,000
South Carolina	375,000	450,000	350,000
Tennessee	350,000	550,000	450,000
Texas	1,200,000	1,600,000	950,000
Virginia	600,000	750,000	450,000

Media Outlets

Print
 newspapers
 daily
 weekly
 college
 religious

Radio
 stations
 commercial
 public/educational

Television
 stations
 commercial
 public/educational

Targeted Decisionmakers

1. editorial page editors
2. wire service editors
3. city editors
4. selected reporters

1. gateway radio stations
2. wire service editors
3. news directors
4. public service directors
5. talk show hosts
6. commentators

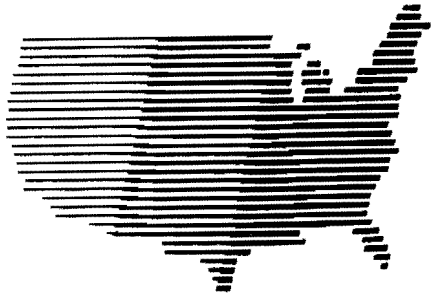
1. assignment editors
2. talk show hosts
3. public service directors

Use of Forum Materials

1. op-ed articles (750 words)
2. news briefs (300 words)
3. ideas for longer news
4. news/editorial background

1. talk shows
2. news bites
3. public service announcements
4. commentary
5. news/editorial background

1. documentary/series
2. talk shows
3. news bites
4. editorials
5. news/editorial background



WHAT THE EDITORS SAY ABOUT THE FORUM

FLORIDA

"We have been very impressed with the Forum. The quality is extremely high. We have used almost every column we have received and expect to continue doing so." — Robert Pittman, editorial page editor, St. Petersburg Times

"We appreciate getting the Florida Forum pieces and use them regularly. It is a valuable service because it focuses on state issues, which otherwise get little attention." — Mike Murphy, op-ed page editor, Orlando Sentinel

"The Forum media packets are extremely useful for news stories. Keep them coming." — Steve Boyer, assignment editor, WSVN-TV in Miami

"The Forum material is extremely valuable." — Kingsley Guy, editorial page editor, Ft. Lauderdale News & Sun Sentinel

"We have used a number of the Forum topics for local news stories." — Joe Moore, assignment editor, WSHG-TV, in Panama City

"We welcome the Forum articles. We run material on state issues as often as we can get it. The Forum fills an almost total vacuum." — Lamar Thames, op-ed page editor, Jacksonville Times-Union

GEORGIA

"We use the Forum columns regularly. The quality is extraordinary. In fact, we would like to receive one article a week." Peter Kent, op-ed page editor, Atlanta Constitution

"The Forum material is all very good." — Tom Coffey, editorial page editor, Savannah News-Press

"We use almost everything you send." — Isabel Wright, associate editor of the Macon News

"I read the columns with interest. They are good." — Bill Kent, Editorial Page Editor, Augusta Herald

NORTH CAROLINA

"We use almost everything the Forum sends us. Keep them coming." — Ed Williams, op-ed page editor of the Charlotte Observer

"The quality of the Forum articles is extraordinary. We expect to continue using them regularly." — Dave DuBuisson, op-ed page editor of the Greensboro News & Record

"We expect to continue using the Forum material with high frequency." — Bryan Haislip, editorial page editor of the Winston-Salem Journal

"We usually use the Forum material one way or another." — Joe Glennon, assignment editor for WPTF-TV in Raleigh

"My news team did a local story on illiteracy, based on the Forum piece we received. The material you supply us provides good, basic information. It saves us a great deal of time." — Raeford Brown, assignment editor of WECT-TV in Wilmington

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Forum articles are very interesting. We use them frequently." — Robert Cox, editorial page editor of the Charleston News & Courier

"The Forum material is excellent." — Tom Inman, editorial page editor of the Greenville News

"I can't imagine anyone in our business not being very anxious to get the kind of material the Forum provides. The Forum helps enlighten and educate the media and the public. — Bill Sharpe, managing editor, WCSC-TV in Charleston.

"The Forum is a great source of information for us. We look for material like that which helps our audience understand the issues." — Darryl Huger, assignment editor for WIX in Columbia

VIRGINIA

"I frequently use Forum ideas for my talk show and in editorial conferences." Charlotte Asherman, director of public affairs programming and talk show producer, WSET-TV Lynchburg

"We love them. Even the packets we don't use directly are helpful for background. They are extremely useful because of the contacts. We put the contacts on a rolodex. It is helpful because you have a lot of sources that we don't have." — Mike Gooding, assignment editor, WVEC-TV, in Norfolk

"We are inundated with syndicated columns and other material that speaks to national and international issues. But we receive almost nothing that addresses state issues. The Forum fills a huge void, and we use every column we receive." — Bill Wood, editorial page editor, Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

"The Forum's articles are uniformly intelligent. We appreciate getting them and expect to continue using them regularly." — Geoff Seaman, op-ed page editor, Roanoke Times

"The Forum material adds depth and perspective to our editorial page. Keep up the good work." — Ernie Gates, editorial page editor, Newport News Daily Press

ALABAMA

"We always look forward to receiving the Forum material. The Forum is a good idea. We receive no in-state material. For material on Alabama, we must either self-generate or die." - Ken Stickney, editorial page editor, Tuscaloosa News

"I like getting the Alabama Forum material." - Ron Casey, editorial page editor, Birmingham News

"Keep sending your articles!" - Tom Wright of the Decatur Daily

"It's a wonderful idea! You hit on the key issues and use experts who can devote time to in-depth research." - Connie Hancock, talk show producer, WJSU-TV, Anniston

TENNESSEE

"We use the articles. They are extremely useful." - Doug Headrick, editorial page editor, Athens Daily Post

"We are impressed with the quality of the articles and are happy to get them. They are very well done. We have used two (out of four) so far." - Dan Coleman, editorial page editor, Nashville Banner

"We have used several of the columns. The quality is excellent, and we hope the service will continue." - Sandra Roberts, executive editor, Nashville Tennessean

"I use the articles and find them very helpful. I really appreciate the service." - Donnie Denny, news director, WCOR-AM, Lebanon

September 13, 1988

Mr. Ward Kirlin, Chair
Georgia Forum
P.O. Box 2210
Decatur, Ga. 30031

Dear Ward,

I've intended for weeks to drop the Forum board a note of thanks for inviting me to its meeting earlier this summer. Well, better late than never.

Really, my gratitude to the Forum goes beyond just the evening's invitation, it extends to the presence of the group within our state. The Forum provides a unique service not only to Georgia's residents but also to the state's media community.

My experiences within editorial departments, both as an opinion-page editor and as an editorialist, have taught me that debates on public policy are never simply a matter of right or wrong, good or bad, just or unjust. Airing the plethora of viewpoints on a topic is essential to informed, thoughtful decision making. An informed citizen is the bedrock of our democracy and the guardian of our rights.

Yes, perhaps I'm being a bit dramatic, but the assumption is the philosophical foundation of journalism. Unfortunately, it isn't always abided by. There are times when we, the media, fail to address an issue or to cover it adequately. For a large newspaper, there's no excuse. For small newspapers, however, excuses can be made -- often, they simply don't have the financial and human resources necessary for complete coverage.

The Georgia Forum, by providing factual, well-reasoned and articulate essays by topical experts, fills in the gaps in coverage left by large and small newspapers alike. Forum articles offer the public information and viewpoints that help shape thought and focus debate. For instance, I recall the Forum piece Ms. Frances Pauley authored on the need for a Georgia open-meetings law. While the media advocated the law, coverage tended to concentrate on the political infighting surrounding passage of the bill. Ms. Pauley took another tack, she wrote of rights -- that government exists for the governed -- and of her experiences of being shut out of a process that pledges itself to serve her as a citizen.

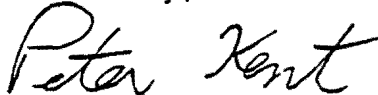
What made Ms. Pauley's essay compelling derived not only from her words, it came also from the public's ability to identify with her as a citizen who wanted things set right. There is your greatest power. The Forum, composed of concerned, ordinary individuals, has the capability of serving as the conscience of the community.

It is an organization that believes in the strength of vox populi and vigorously represents it.

Goodness, I didn't intend to be so windy, but you folks deserve the praise. The meeting I attended that night invigorated me. The people there were dedicated to improving our state and willing to volunteer their time to fulfil that mission. While we may disagree how best to achieve the goal, I came away with an appreciation of your views. The Forum is an able and feisty contestant in the arena of public debate.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Kent". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peter J. Kent

AMERICAN FORUM LIST OF ARTICLES

ALABAMA

1989

1 Tax Reform Joyce Woodworth

1990

2 Clean Air Jan Taylor/Jim Price

3 Land Acquisition Kathy Stiles Cooley

4 Abortion Marion Walker

5 Family Leave Nancy Worley

6 Alt. Sentencing Joseph Phelps

7 Medicaid Max Michael

8 Indigent Defense Dennis Balala

9 Minority Farm Bill Eza Cunningham

10 Teenage Pregnancy Fred Danner

1991

11 Alt. Sentencing Allen Tapley

12 Tax Reform Judge C.C. Torbert

13 Educational Equity George Prewitt

14 Sex Education Larry Rodick

15 Healthcare Townsend Walker, Sr.

16 Science Education Dell Mullens

1992

17 Reproductive Rights Rev. Thomas L. Jackson

18 Chip Mills Mike Dalen

19 History Education Lesh Rawls Atkins, Ph.D

20 Wetlands Kyle Crider

FLORIDA

1987

1 State Financing James Baccius

2 Sentencing Guidelines Alan C. Sundberg

3 Constitutional Convention Talbot D'Alemberte

4 Death Penalty Rep. James C. Burke

5 Gender Bias Charlene Carres

6 Indigent Health Care John J. Schlitt

7 Prison Construction Randall C. Berg, Jr.

8 Foreign Laborers Penny Chang

9 Textbook Censorship Larry Spalding

10 Foster Care Jack Levine

11 Bork Nomination Fletcher Baldwin

12 Service Tax Dominic Calabro

1988

13 Dropouts Betty Castor

14 Runaways Bill Bentley

15 Growth Nathaniel Reed

16 Daycare Budd Bell

1989

17 Homeless Families Jim Hardison

18 Prison Construction Peter Stegai

19 Juvenile Curfew Robyn Blummer

20 Clean Water Sory Ruhl

21 Child Abuse Burt Taylor

22 Parental Leave Sen. Helen Gordon Davis

23 Dropouts Robyn Blummer

1990

24 Oil Drilling Ann Whitfield

25 Migrant Workers Karen Woodall

26 Land Acquisition Sen. George Kirkpatrick

27 Everglades Rep. Thomas Drage

28 Development Sen. Robert Graham

Nat Reed

30 Intergenerational Conflict William Bell

31 Low-Level Radiation Joese Lorion

32 Coastal Zone Management Rep. Porter Goss

1991

33 Minimum Wage Karen Woodall

34 Community vs. Crowd Buddy McKay

35 Anti-Crime Mary Coombs

36 School-Linked Clinics Rep. Lois Frankel

1992

37 Mental Health Wayne Droggers

38 Tax Reform Parker Thomson

39 Migrant Workers Elaine Roberts

40 Rodman Dam David Godfrey

41 Hate Crimes Arthur England & Joan Peppard

42 Endangered Species Rob Goodwin

GEORGIA

1986

1 AFDC Betsy Stone

2 Juvenile Justice Hon. Clarence Cooper

3 Plant Vogtle Hon. Roy E. Barnes

4 Worker Drug Testing Gene Guenero

5 Defense Spending Jay M. Stein

6 Acid Rain Ogden Doremus

7 Hunger Bill Bolling

Gary Gunderson

1987

8 Daycare Barbara Reed

9 Budgetmaking Process Frances Pauley

10 Nuclear Power/ Chernobyl Tim Johnson

11 Religious Freedom Gene Guenero

12 Foster Kids Rick McDevitt

13 Georgia's Farm Debt Martha Miller

14 AIDS Jean Levine

1988

15 Homelessness James W. Beary

16 Longterm Health Care Vita Ostrander

17 School Discipline Mariyn Gootman

18 Housing Trust Fund Bill Bolling

19 Voter Turnout Ed Brown

20 Medicaid Emory Greene

1989

21 Indigent Defense Sen. Roy Barnes

Paul J. Kilpatrick

22 Dropouts Tom Keating

23 Homeless Mark Yates/Anita Beary

24 Abortion W. Newton Long, M.D.

25 Daycare Frank Craven

26 Hazardous Waste Laurie Fowler

27 Rural Hospitals Ray Erbes

28 Housing Trust Fund Bill Bolling

1990

- 29 Lemon Law Joyce Kohlenberg Kinnard
- 30 Family Leave Cinda Cameron
- 31 Nuclear Radiation Tim Connor
- 32 Minority Farm Bill Ralph Paige
- 33 Offshore Mining Hans Neuhauser
- 34 Independent Care Pat Pockett
- 35 Hazardous Waste Frances Hallahan
- 36 Bicycle Routes Henry Slack
- 37 Sanctions & South Africa Heather Gray
- 38 Billboards Spencer Lee
- 39 School Linked Clinics John Norton

1992

- 40 Ethics Marc Wetherhorn
- 41 Child Care Anns W. Bramlette
- 42 Earned Income Pierre Howard
- 43 Sex Education Joan Cates
- 44 Megadumps William Sheehan
- 45 Arts Funding Shelley Rose
- 46 School Breakfast Palumbo, and Williams

MISSISSIPPI

1990

- 1 Tax Reform Paul Neville
- 2 Recycling Alan Huffman

1991

- 3 Healthcare Judy Barber
- 4 Gag Rule Dean Faulkner Wells
- 5 Mississippi First Lamar Weems
- 6 Food Stamps Margrit Garner
- 7 School Choice Rims Barber

1992

- 8 Campaign Reform Barbara Powell
- 9 Indirect Initiative John Stack, Ph.D
- 10 Toxics (environ.) Deirdre Jamney, Ph.D
- 11 Aids Education John W. DeGroot M.D.
- 12 Beckwith trial Steve Overman

NORTH CAROLINA

1985

- 1 Infant Mortality Dr. Earl Siegel
 - 2 Hazardous Waste Siting John Runkle
 - 3 Day Care Sen. Lura Tally
 - 4 State & Local Tax Cuts Tom Gilmore
 - 5 Right to Know Susan Lupton/Marvin Wilson
 - 6 Juvenile Incarceration Linda Garrou
 - 7 Bigoted Violence Mab Segrest
 - 8 Coastal Todd Miller
 - 9 NC Overground Railroad Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte
 - 10 Housing NC's Poor Donald Saunders
 - 11 Hunger & Poverty in NC Andrew Dobeinstein
- 1986
- 12 Martin Luther King Rev. John Mendez
 - 13 Illiteracy Ben T. Craig
 - 14 Group Homes Chuck Eppinette
 - 15 Rape Crisis Centers Jan Rogers
 - 16 Hazardous Waste Kathleen Carpenter

- 17 Public Preschool John Niblock
- 18 Arbitrary Firings Leah Wise
- 19 Land Ownership Bob Hall
- 21 School Financing Richard King
- 22 NC's Homeless Ann Hensel

1987

- 23 Parental Consent Rev. Deborah Steely
- 24 Food Tax Paul Lusbie
- 25 Nuclear Power David Martin
- 26 School Discipline Rep. Marie W. Colton
- 27 Indigent Health Care Pam Silberman
- 28 SE Compact (Pro/Con) Linda Little/Marion Nichol
- 29 Mediation Centers Dee Reid
- 30 Children & Poverty John Turner
- 31 Acid Rain Millie Buchanan
- 32 Food Bank Anne Register

1988

- 33 Backs & AIDS Cash Michaels
- 34 Child Abuse James Lenzor
- 35 Pay Equity Christina Greene
- 36 Children & Welfare William Crawford
- 37 Homelessness Anne Burke

1989

- 38 Alternative Sentencing Leo Rubert
 - 39 Condition of Children Margaret Arbutuckle
 - 40 Pesticides Nancy Barnhardt
 - 41 Repetitive Motion Injuries Tom Lippin
 - 42 Community Service Pamela Mayers
 - 43 Corporal Punishment Richard Clifford
- 1990
- 44 Wetlands Doug Rader
 - 45 Family Leave Pat Bullard
 - 46 Tax Equity Janis Ramquist
 - 47 Minority Farm Bill David Harris
 - 48 Low-income Housing Linda Shaw
 - 49 Police Brutality Christina Davis-McCoy
 - 50 Healthcare Lynice Williams

1991

- 51 Anti-Gay Violence Mab Segrest
- 52 Campaign Finance Patricia Watts
- 53 Worker's Safety Mark Schulz
- 54 Tax Reform Claudia Kadis
- 55 Underskilled Workers George Aury
- 56 Mammograms Sarah Babb
- 57 Farmer's Markets Charles Thompson
- 58 Beach Erosion Dan Besse
- 59 Death Penalty Elmer Schwertman
- 60 Child Care Florence Glasser
- 61 Hunger Jan Dodds

1992

- 62 Abortion Rev. Thomas R. Mann
- 63 Water Quality Dr. Virginia Reynaud
- 64 Bibles & Drugs Barbara Zelter Earis
- 65 Long Term Care Sandra Crawford Leak
- 66 Stalking Bill Sen. Heien Marvin
- 67 Workplace Safety Mark Schulz
- 68 Learning Disabled Rebecca Felton

SOUTH CAROLINA

1987

1 Ed & Econ. Development **Hayes Mizell**
 3 At-Large Elections **Beverly Frierston**

1988

4 Sex Education **Heyward McDonald**
 5 Coastal Protection **Margaret Davidson**
 6 Infant Mortality **Jeanne Fraser**
 7 School Discipline **Carol Ortopallo**

1989

8 Hunger **Suz Jo Waggoner**
 9 Coastal Protection **Linda Rackley**
 10 Workers' Compensation **Charles Taylor**
 11 Children & Crime **Carol Ortopallo**
 12 Rural Hospitals **Ben Hunter**
 13 El Salvador **Dr. Morris J. Blachman**
 14 Parental Leave **G.O. Smoak**
 15 Wetlands **Jim Chandler**

1990

16 Coastal Protection **Orrin Pilkey**
 17 Corporal Punishment **Carol Ortopallo**
 18 Abortion **Sen. Neil W. Smith**
 19 Recycling **Sen. Tommy Moore**
 20 Nuclear Radiation **Tim Connor**
 21 Minority Farm Bill **Nathaniel Husser**
 22 World Summit Children **Marjorie Trifon**
 23 Marital Rape **Jo Anne St. Clair**
Gilda Cobb-Hunter

1991

24 Environmental Advocate **Rep. Candy Waltes**
 25 Solid Waste Incinerator **William Macintosh**
Bob Guld
 26 Death with Dignity **Rep. Harriet Keyserling**
Elizabeth Patterson
Jim Hales
 27 School Breakfast **Rep. Douglas Bowling**
 28 Abortion & Relig. Freedom **Karen Sundstrom**
 29 Health Insurance **Dan White**
 30 Clearcut **John Ruoff**
 31 Auto Insurance **John Norton**
 32 School Linked Clinics

1992

33 Energy Efficiency **Rep. Harriet Keyserling**
C. William Verity, Jr.
Camel Flake, Ph.D
 34 Teaching Techniques **Mary T. Kelly, Ph.D**
 35 Low-Level Waste **Dr. Gwendolyn S. Snythe**
 36 Pro-Choice **Peter Soderberg**
 37 Nuclear Test Ban **Charles Austin**
 38 Community Policing

TENNESSEE

1988

1 State Tax Reform **Cailee Hutchison**
 2 Fresh Food **Dennis Gregg**
 3 Mass Burn Incinerators **John Sherman**

1989

4 Non-profit Hospitals **Robert Everett**
 5 Campaign Finance Reform **Tripp Hunt/Dick Williams**
 6 Illiteracy **Carol Feeney**
 7 Parental Leave **Mary Frances Lyle**

1989

8 Chiropractic **Chester McConnell**
 9 Billboards **Gene Burr**
 10 Farm Bill 1990 **Dennis Gregg**
 12 Historic Preservation **Gene Burr**
 1991
 13 Miner's Access **Debbie Blair**
 14 Tax Reform **Mayo Taylor**
 15 Environmental Agency **John Williams**
 16 Woodchippers **Kari Kurika**
 17 Homeless **F. Monroe Free**
 18 School Linked Clinics **Russell French**

1992

19 Wetlands **Larry J. Smith**
 20 Malaria **Mark Harland**
 21 Tans/Billboards **Suzanna A. Lautar**
 22 Summer Feeding **Karen Bernstein**
 23 Housing Homeless **Nancy Stewart**
 24 Air Pollution **James Tramei**
 25 Displaced Homemakers **Pearl Merritt**
Pat Thomas

TEXAS

1991

1 Alternative Sentencing **Jude Filler**
 2 Housing **Larry Swift**

1992

3 Death Penalty **Bishop Leroy Matthiesen**
 4 Free Trade **Robert J. King**
 5 Election Fund **Mary Nell Mathis**
 6 Early Voting **John Hannah**

VIRGINIA

1981

1 Legal Aid **Dale Pittman**
 2 Defense Spending **Phillip Sparks**
 3 Robbery Coleman **Paul Goldman**
 4 Chesapeake Bay **Bill Eichbaum**
 5 Social Security **Phillip Sparks**
 6 Food Stamps **Rick Cagan**

1982

7 Reaganomics **Bristow Hardin**
 8 ERA **Dale Laney**
 9 Public Schools **John McMans**
 10 Voting Rights **Frank Parker**
 11 Death Penalty **Bill Geimer**
 12 Creationism **Robert Bourdeaux**
 13 Constitutional Amendment **Sen. Wiley Mitchell**
 14 Uranium Mining **Barbara Lambert**
 15 Utility Diversification **Taylor Cousins**

1983

16 Voter Registration **Christie Vernon**
 17 Legal Aid **Charles Chambliss**
 18 Judge Selection **Ralph Grimsley**
 19 1982 Elections, part I **Larry Sabato**
 20 1982 Elections, part II **Larry Sabato**
 21 Community College **Richard Beauchamp**
 22 Reaganomics **Phuup Sparks**
 23 Toxic Wastes **Tim Hayes**
 24 Nuclear Power Ads **Mary Ellen Griffith**
 25 Sex Education **Mary Lee Tatum/Ann Cook**

26 Coal Slurry, part I Joseph R. Bateman, Jr.
 27 Coal Slurry, part II Chuck Lacy
 1984

29 Pay Equity Rhoda H. Mazur
 30 Uranium Mining Velma Smith
 31 Returnable Bottles Bennie Carter
 32 Infant Mortality Rae Good
 33 Nuclear Freeze Bishop Walter Sullivan
 34 High Tech Education Peter Halpin
 35 Aid to Dependent Children David Bailey
 36 Mental Health Florence Segal
 37 Cuts in Elderly Programs Donald W. Stone
 38 Hunger in Virginia Debbie Oswald
 39 Illiteracy Nancy Sims
 1985

40 Uranium Mining Jim Murray
 41 Bottle Bill Pat Franklin
 42 Voter Registration Chan Kendrick
 43 Nuclear War Bishop Walter Sullivan
 44 Indigent Defense William D. Dolan III
 45 Nicaragua Karl Hermann
 46 Textbook Censorship Margaret Marston
 47 Family Planning Ben Greenberg
 48 Chesapeake Bay Chuck Fox/ Velma Smith
 49 Migrant Workers Willa Fay McKenna /G. Schell
 1986

50 Bottle Bill Linwood Holton
 51 Martin Luther King Rev. Curtis Harris
 52 Parental Consent Edythe Harrison
 53 Budgets Cuts Rich Josephson
 54 Family Farms Rick Cagan
 Patti Nesbitt-Habib
 Cong. Rick Boucher

55 ARC - Appalachia Bill Spang
 56 Constitutional Convention Leonard E. Dobrin
 57 Prisons Melvin Urofsky
 58 Religious Freedom Kelley Bennett
 59 Handicapped Children Ray Buchanan
 60 Hunger / Potato Project Joy Hakim
 1987

62 Housing Karl Ross
 63 Legislative Ethics Kevin Lanigan
 64 Nuclear Power/ Chernobyl Thayer Cory/ Scott Denman
 65 Death Penalty EJ Brown Devlin
 66 Tenure & Comm. Colleges Alexander Sedgwick
 67 Utility Rates Jean Ann Fox
 1988

68 Mental Health Funding Henry Howe
 69 Daycare Marian M. Houk
 70 School Breakfast Program Bill Cooper
 71 Mass Burn Barbara Buck
 72 Wetlands Leo Sneed
 73 AIDS Dr. Richard Keeling
 74 Liver Transplants John Robbins
 75 Community Colleges Joseph Adams
 1989

76 Value Engineering Charles Brown
 77 Pesticides William Broadbent
 78 Homelessness Sus Capers
 79 Poison Runoff Bob Adler
 80 Chesapeake Bay Sen. Joseph Garlan
 81 Prison Construction Dr. Leonard Dobrin
 82 Mortgage Jeffrey W. London

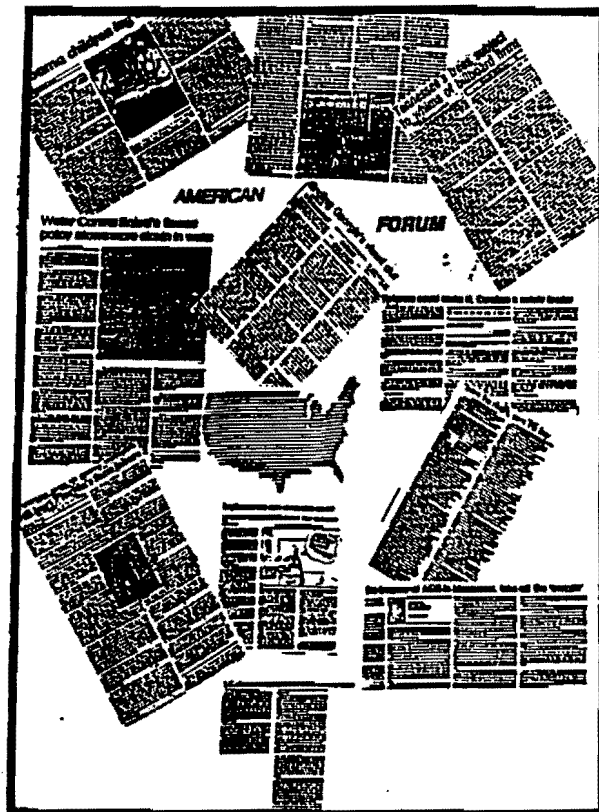
83 Unemployment Hugh O'Donnell
 84 Minority Farm Bill Ernest Bloom
 85 Divorce David S. Bailey
 86 Rural Econ. Development Luis Stangl
 87 Death Penalty Richard Morefield
 88 Zoning Del. Leslie Byrne
 1991

89 Credit Insurance Jean Ann Fox
 90 Conflict Resolution Richard Rubinstein
 91 Recycling Robert O'Neill
 92 Earned Income Tax Credit Sus Capers
 93 Parental Consent Edythe Harrison
 94 Poison Runoff Del. Vincent Callahan
 Richard Cohn-Lee
 Tom Morris

95 Redistricting Tom Morris
 96 Tobacco Bill Kovarick
 97 Workforce 2000 Alan Wurtzel
 98 George Mason (BOR I) Chief Justice Harry Carrico
 99 Eastern VA Development Gerald P. McCarthy
 100 1st Amendment (BOR II) Robert O'Neill
 101 Educational Equity Dr. Kenneth Walker
 102 Billboards Sally Oldham
 103 Economic Convention John Accorino
 104 9th/10th Amend. BOR III Thomas R. Morris
 105 Church/State (BOR IV) James A. Payne
 106 Taxes John Bowman
 107 Civil Rights (BOR V) Oliver Hill
 1992

108 Hunger Sen. Robert C. Scott
 Del. Robert S. Bloom
 Gov. Doug Wilder
 Barbara Buck
 Walter F. Sullivan
 Lynda Johnson Robb
 Joseph H. Maroon

109 Healthcare
 110 Medical Waste
 111 Nuclear Test Ban
 112 Infant Mortality
 113 Chesapeake Revival

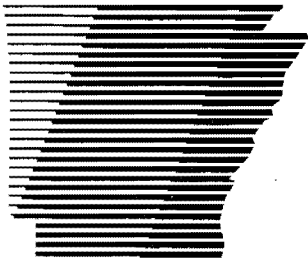




ALABAMA FORUM

Alabama Forum Board

firstname	lastname
-----	-----
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Major	Cox
Kimble	Forrister
Lawrence F.	Gardella
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Anne	Kinnzey
Kathleen	Martin
Mike	Odom
Migi & Paul	Rilling
Jim	Taylor
Mary	Weidler
Marilyn	Williams
Randall	Williams
Nancy	Worley



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Arkansas Forum Board

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Dr. Roby	Robertson
James	Smith
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Don	Zimmerman



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firstname	lastname
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Jack	Levine
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Max	Rothman
George H.	Sheldon
Chris	Shuh
Peter M.	Siegel, Esq.
John Edward	Smith, Esq.
Martha	Solomon
Larry Helm	Spalding
Judith Delaney	Vallee
Glenda	Wood
Karen	Woodall



GEORGIA FORUM

P.O. Box 50223
Atlanta, GA 30302-0223

Georgia Forum Board

Page 1

firstname	lastname
Stewart	Acuff
Bill	Bolling
Joan	Cates
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Stephanie	Davis
Ogden	Doremus
Laurie	Fowler
Heather	Gray
Bill	Holland
Tim	Johnson
Tim	Johnson
Stacey	Jones
Chuck	McGrady
Malkia M'buzi	Moore
John	Norton
Frances	Pauley
Rick	Reed
Loretta	Ross
Ellen	Spears
Brenda	Sullivan
Ann Wells	White
Diane	Williamson
Bob	Woodall



LOUISIANA FORUM

P.O. Box 66226

Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6226

Louisiana Forum Steering Committee

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Terri	Bartlett
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Marsha	Broussard
Rosemae & Bernard	Broussard
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Marcus	Carson
Ron	Chisom
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Cheryl	Daniels
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Elizabeth	Franks
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Tamara	Kreinin
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Darryl	Malek-Wiley
Richard	McCarthy
Dan	Nicolai
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Meg	Ross
Robin	Rothrock
Kit	Senter
Nina	Shulman
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Tim	Wise
Jim	Witcher



MISSISSIPPI FORUM

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Cathy R.	Stuart



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South Carolina Forum Board

firstname	lastname
-----	-----
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Beverly	Frierson
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Bob	Guild
Sally	Hardin
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Joan	Lare
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Elizabeth	Patterson
Fred	Reese
Jan Collins	Stucker
Karen	Sundstrom
Pete	Tepley
Marjorie	Trifon
Tom	Turnipseed
David	Whiteman
Kathleen	Whitten
Mary	Williams
Rudy	Williams

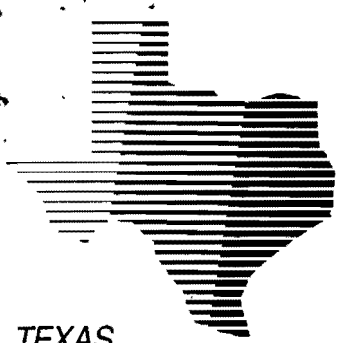


FORUM

P.O. Box 120961
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Tennessee Forum Board

firstname	lastname
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Mary	Buckner
Jennifer	Caldwell
Rozell	Caldwell
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Rand	Pearson
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Dale	Snapp
Nancy	Stewart
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James	Tramel
Hubert	Van Tol
Anne	Warren-Jenkins
Harmon	Wray



**TEXAS
LONE STAR FORUM**

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Austin, Texas 78716-1294

Texas Lone Star Forum Board

firstname	lastname
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Ty	Fain
Jude	Filler
Cecilia	Gonzalez
Chuck	Halloran
John	Henneberger
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Reggie	James
Mary	Kelley
Bob	King
Leslie	Lanham
Rebecca	Lightsey
Elisa	Lyles
Mark	Mathis
Honorable Glen	Maxey
Lisa	McGiffert
Catherine	Mears
James	Mickelson
Laura	Munoz
Honorable Elliot	Naishtat
Cecile	Richards
Geoffrey	Rips
Mary	Sanger
Brigid	Shea
Tom	Smith
Dianne	Stewart
Larry	Swift
Saralee	Tiede
John	Umphress
Dan	Van Cleve
Ed	Wendler



VIRGINIA **FORUM**

P.O. Box 242
Richmond, Virginia 23202-0242

Virginia Forum Board

firstname	lastname
Karl	Bren
Rick	Cagan
Etna	Carr
Paul	Fleisher
Chuck	George
Susanne	Kelly
Gail	Nardi
B. Norris	Vassar

AMERICAN FORUM REPORT

The past year has been a very busy time for the American Forum. In July the Forum relocated its offices to the center of media activity in the nation -- the National Press Building. Through the National Press Club and Library we have access to on-line newspaper databases like NEXIS, VU-TEXT and DATATIMES, and the Washington bureaus of many Southern newspapers.

The Arkansas and Louisiana Forums began publication in December. With the addition of these two new states the Forum now has projects operating in eleven Southern states. The Forum's network has grown from 150 volunteer board members active in nine states to more than 200 volunteer board members in eleven states. A Forum in Kentucky is in development and plans are now underway to take this program to other regions of the country.

The Forum's ability to reach audiences has also greatly expanded. The average number of households reached via print has grown from 4 million to 5.9 million, and the number of listeners/viewers reached by broadcast has grown from 7 to 8 million to 10.75 million. Often these numbers are greater, given the increasing use of Forum materials by wire services.

The investment made in the Forum continues to reap rich rewards...

...since 1981 more than 350 articles on a wide range of quality of life issues have already made their way onto the editorial pages of large and small dailies and weeklies throughout the South. Papers from the **Greene County Democrat** (circ. 3,500) in Alabama...to the **Charlotte Observer** (circ. 269,435) in North Carolina...consistently rely on the Forum for information that addresses issues of concern in their states.

...over 40 percent of all radio stations surveyed...many with country and gospel formats...regularly use Forum public service announcements. More and more stations are interviewing the authors for talk show programs. Forum pieces are also regularly picked up by the radio news networks -- gateway radio stations -- with 70 to 100 subscriber stations in each state.

...AP and UPI wire services now consistently send Forum articles to their own subscribers, greatly enhancing the Forum's opportunity to reach every nook and cranny in the state. In addition, several Forum articles have been picked up by the regional and national wire services from the state wires resulting in usage by the **New York Times** and other regional and national papers.

...television stations in the region have come to rely on the Forum materials. Macon tv station WVAZ (a CBS affiliate) interviews practically every Georgia Forum author. Surveys reveal a deep hunger that editors of newspapers and broadcast stations have for the kind of material that the Forum provides. Typical of the comments is this of Charlie Mitchell, editorial page editor of the **Vicksburg, Miss., Evening Post**:

"The Forum articles are artfully done and extremely helpful for our readers. They demonstrate the advantage of having people who deal with issues write about them. This is immeasurably more helpful than the approach newspapers have traditionally relied on in having their staff write about issues. Moreover, there is not a lot of wire service or other coverage of state issues. The Forum fills a huge vacuum."

Similarly, most of the editorial page editors surveyed report that they find Forum articles an extremely useful resource for writing their own editorials. (This usage is in addition to publication of the op-ed articles themselves, through which the Forum authors reach, on average, about one-third of the households in a given state.) Based on the surveys, it is clear that the Forum actually inspires a significant number of print editorials.

Receiving the Forum articles has stimulated the media to increase the amount of space and time they devote to analysis of state issues. The Atlanta Constitution, after asking the Georgia Forum to increase its production, created a weekly column for state-oriented op-eds in its weekend edition called the "Georgia Forum". The Mississippi Forum similarly expanded publication of op-eds on state issues by the Jackson Clarion Ledger. The Times Daily in Florence, Alabama, has also enlarged its editorial section, at least partially in response to the production of the Alabama Forum.

The articles contained in these packets have been published by many influential newspapers in the region. This has been accompanied by remarkable usage by smaller dailies and weeklies and gospel and country western radio stations, as well as tv stations in the region.

American Forum continues to expand its media efforts to give a voice to progressive issues in the Southeast. That voice not only reaches the desks of the region's most important policymakers, but is also carried into an increasing number of households in the 11 states where the Forum currently operates.

We have made a lot of progress during this period. The editors and reporters who serve as today's gatekeepers increasingly depend on American Forum as a reliable source of news and opinion. Summarized below are profiles of the impact of Forum articles in each of the states that are part of the Forum network across the South this past year.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE STATES....

THE TWO NEWEST FORUM STATES...

The Forum held its first organizing meeting in Arkansas in June 1992 and has developed into an effective vehicle for promoting public policy reform by providing the media with commentary on a wide range of issues.

Since December the Forum has published five articles on such timely issues as tax reform, school financing, living wills, school-based clinics, and children's health. On average, each article has reached 300,000 households via print and more than 600,000 listeners/viewers by radio and television.

The Arkansas Democrat Gazette, the largest circulation paper in the state, regularly uses Forum articles in the Sunday edition. In addition, several smaller daily and weekly newspapers and radio and television stations reported using every Forum article. The Forum materials have resonated powerfully with the small and large media in the state. The self-styled "ultraconservative" editor of the Paragould Daily Press has used all the articles with our logo on the op-ed page. He goes on to state, "Here at the Daily Press we use the Arkansas Forum columns as the way of presenting a good spectrum of high quality opinion on the editorial page. I find them enlightening and appreciate getting them. The articles are well conceived and the pieces intelligently written."

The first article -- on tax reform -- by Howard Goggans, entitled "Arkansas Taxes: One Executive's Perspective," appeared in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette (circ. 225,000), and at least ten other smaller papers. The op-ed also ran in the January 1993 edition of City & Town, a publication of the Arkansas Municipal League.

We are particularly pleased by the television usage of the Forum article which was used in a news story by Channel KTHV-TV in Little Rock and KAIT-TV in Jonesboro, and was used as a public service announcement on KLRT-TV in Little Rock, and KPOM-TV in Fort Smith. TV station KLRT reports that the PSA was put into their rotation cycle airing five to 10 times a week over a period of six to eight weeks. Radio usage was equally exciting. The PSA was used as a short news item on KTWN-FM in Texarkana, and KNEA-AM in Jonesboro, to name a couple.

Another article produced during the reporting period, written by Becky Williams and Dr. Bob West, focused on the need for school-based clinics. The article was used by at least three major tv stations including KAIT-TV (Jonesboro), KPOM-TV (Fort Smith), and KTVE in Monroe. Radio usage was also high. The article aided in stimulating a talk show program on the issue on KKEG--FM (Fayetteville). The op-ed also appeared in the Russellville Courier Democrat, Paragould Daily Press, and Mountain Home Baxter Bulletin.

Other articles produced during the reporting period were equally well-received by the media.

LOUISIANA FORUM

The first meeting of the Louisiana Forum was held in July 1992. The Forum has hit the ground running. The first article, which addressed health care, was published in December. Other articles produced to date have focused public attention on tax reform, corporal punishment, children's health and incineration.

The articles to date have all been readily accepted by the media outlets of Louisiana. The first article, which discussed the need for health care reform was written by Marcus Carson of the Louisiana Health Care Campaign. The article was used by numerous papers in the state and extensively by radio and tv. The op-ed appeared in the Alexandria Daily Town Talk (circ. 41,000), Lafayette Advertiser (circ. 39,000), and the Shreveport Times (21,000), to name a few. What was interesting was the op-ed's placement in the Shreveport Times, which carries a moderate to conservative op-ed page and a separate liberal op-ed page. The Forum article appeared on the moderate to conservative page -- enabling the Forum to communicate directly to more conservative readers about the need for universal health care reform.

The recent tax reform article by Tim Wise was equally well-received, with extensive print and broadcast usage, including a 30-minute interview of Wise by radio station WCKW in New Orleans.

OTHER FORUM STATES....

ALABAMA FORUM

Alabama Forum consistently reaches an average of 350,000 households through the print media, and 850,000 listeners/viewers via radio and TV.

An article by Kyle Crider, an environmental expert and vice president of the Alabama Conservancy helped to focus on the need to restore and preserve Alabama's wetlands. The article appeared in the Sunday edition of the Montgomery Advertiser (circ. 78,000), the Tuscaloosa News (circ. 40,000) and a number of other papers. A number of TV stations used the article as background for a news or feature story, including WHNT-TV in Huntsville, WKAB-TV in Montgomery, and WVTM-TV in Birmingham.

Another article on the need for corporate day care, by Ted Kennedy, chair and chief executive officer of the BE&K Construction Company, talked about the benefits of providing day care for employees. The article was used extensively by the media. In addition to appearing in the Sunday edition of the Montgomery Advertiser, and the Tuscaloosa News, the op-ed also appeared in the Florence Times Daily (circ. 33,000), Huntsville Times (circ. 59,000), Gadsden Times (circ. 30,000) and the Greene County Democrat (circ. 3,500), to name just a few. Usage by radio and tv was equally impressive.

Other topics included articles on divorce laws, the need for best management practices to protect Alabama's environment, and Tennessee Valley Authority debt.

FLORIDA FORUM

The Florida Forum articles reach more than 1 million households typically via the print media and another 2.1 million through radio and television.

One recent Florida Forum author noted that the environment has always been an important issue to the state's residents. His article focused on the large number of endangered species in the state and the need to protect Florida's wildlife and heritage.

The author, Robert Goodwin, is an attorney with the Save the Manatee Club, a nonprofit organization in Orlando. The article focused on the need to protect Florida's 79 endangered species. In total, the article reached more than 1 million households via print as an editorial, or news story, and 2.1 million listeners/viewers by radio and tv.

In response to the recent murder of Dr. David Gunn, and the growing harassment and death threats by anti-choice activists, the Florida Forum produced an article to focus attention on the need for greater protection of clinic workers. The article stimulated an editorial in the Palm Beach Post and was used extensively by other media outlets throughout the state.

The Florida Forum has also produced articles on children's health, submerged lands, and anti-gay initiatives.

GEORGIA FORUM

Georgia Forum continues to reach at least 425,000 households via the print media, and 1 million individuals through the state's broadcasting outlets.

A recent article on infant mortality appeared as an op-ed in the Covington News (circ. 6,900) and the Atlanta Inquirer (circ. 55,000), as well as numerous other papers across the state. This piece was also the basis for a talk show with Dr. Bill Sexton on WCHK-FM and was picked up by WMAZ-TV (a CBS affiliate) as a public service announcement.

Another article on labor and the Olympics by Stewart Acuff stimulated extensive radio and tv usage. The author was interviewed on WMAZ-TV in Macon (a CBS affiliate), WAOK-AM/WVEE-FM, and WCHK-FM. The article also ran in numerous dailies and weeklies across the state.

Other Georgia Forum articles during this period addressed school breakfast programs, free trade, sex education, and Tennessee Valley Authority debt.

MISSISSIPPI FORUM

A recent article by Col. Robert McGowan, US Army (Ret.) discussed the need for military conversion. The article resonated powerfully in the media. The op-ed appeared in the Sunday edition of the Jackson Clarion-Ledger (circ. 125,017), Greenwood Commonwealth (circ. 8,835), and Oxford Eagle (circ. 4,911), to name a few. Another article on AFDC reform appeared in the Memo Digest, the Oxford Eagle, as well as the Jackson Clarion Ledger and a number of other papers across the state.

An article addressing teen pregnancy, written by Jane Boykin, president of the Mississippi Forum on Children and Families, Inc., achieved excellent results within the state. This piece appeared as an op-ed in the Greenwood Commonwealth, the Oxford Eagle, and the Jackson Clarion Ledger (circ. 125,017).

Other articles produced by the Mississippi Forum focused on welfare reform, prisons and jail conditions, the de la Beckwith trial, reproductive rights, solid waste, privatization, gays in the military, and children's health.

On average, the Mississippi Forum reached 350,000 households through the print media and more than 700,000 individuals through radio and TV. The Jackson Clarion Ledger used practically every article produced by the Forum.

NORTH CAROLINA EDITORIAL FORUM

A typical North Carolina Editorial Forum article reaches half a million households through the print media and 1.2 million listener/viewers via radio and TV. The North Carolina Editorial Forum distributed 11 articles during the reporting period.

A North Carolina Editorial Forum article, "Bringing the World to the Classroom: Global Education for NC Schools," by Joe Moran and John Sabella, appeared in the Charlotte Observer (circ. 230,000), and Greensboro News Record (130,000). The media packet was also used extensively by the broadcast media. The authors were interviewed by WRDC-FM in Raleigh, a Kinston radio station, and WLOS-TV in Asheville.

The authors, both experts on global education, urge education reform, including increasing international awareness among students. Moran and Sabella point out that "approximately one-third of all corporate profits are generated through international activities," and in 1991 alone, "North Carolina exported over one billion dollars' worth of agricultural products."

Other articles by the North Carolina Editorial Forum on day care, free trade, death penalty, insurance PACs were equally well-received by the state's media outlets.

SOUTH CAROLINA FORUM

A recent article by the South Carolina Forum on drug mothers resonated particularly powerfully with the media. The article, written by Elizabeth Patterson and Louise Haynes, appeared in the Orangeburg Times Democrat (circ. 18,000), Greenwood Index-Journal (circ. 17,500) and the Sunday edition of the Florence Morning News (circ 35,000), to name a few. In total the article reached an average of 300,000 households by print and 800,000 individuals via the broadcast outlets.

Another article on the AIDS epidemic in South Carolina has helped to pressure the Department of Public Health. An article on community policing appeared as an op-ed in the Columbia State (circ. 141,000), and also stimulated the State to write its own editorial endorsing the idea.

Other topics which received impressive coverage from the media include coastal protection, health care reform, and Savannah River's New Production Reactor (NPR). Since the NPR article ran, the Department of Energy has decided to close down the plant and begin cleanup of the area.

TENNESSEE FORUM

The Tennessee Forum's materials continue to be well-received by the media. A recent article on children, mental health and education by Brenda McGee and Dean Rivkin appeared in almost every major daily in the state, including the Chattanooga News Free Press (circ. 110,514) and the Knoxville News Sentinel (circ. 166,000), as well as numerous weeklies throughout the state. The article reached more than 350,000 households through the print media, and more than 1 million individuals through radio and TV broadcasts.

An article released this past May on the TVA, by a member of the technical advisory board of the Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition, Karl Kurka, was used extensively throughout the media. The piece was used as an editorial in the Knoxville News Sentinel (circ. 166,000) and by the Lexington Herald-Leader (circ. 121,000) as background for a news story. This article was also the stimulus for a one-hour interview with Kurka on Knoxville WIVK-AM and for a shorter interview on a Memphis station.

Other topics have focused on medicaid funding, military conversion, displaced homemakers, and children's health.

TEXAS LONE STAR FORUM

Texas Lone Star Forum articles reaches an estimated 1.2 million households through the state's newspapers, and more than 2.5 million individuals through the broadcast media.

A recent article on income tax by Mary Nell Mathis helped educate the policymakers and public about the need for a more equitable tax structure -- a state income tax. The state was ordered by the courts to respond to the wide discrepancies in funding between local school districts. The op-ed appeared in the San Antonio Express-News, Houston Chronicle, and the Hays County Free Press, to name a few. The article was also distributed to every member of the Texas House Budget Committee. Usage by radio and tv was notable as well.

According to Deborah C. Tucker, executive director of the Texas Council on Family Violence, at least 600,000 Texas women are battered each year. In her article, recently published by the Texas Lone Star Forum, Tucker explains that one of the most cost-effective methods of serving and sheltering battered women is still grossly underfunded. Her article, which clears up myths about the socio-economic and educational backgrounds of Texas' battered women was picked up by the editorial pages of the Dallas Morning News (circ. 834,035), the McAllen Monitor (circ. 32,000), and Stamford American (circ. 3,000). The broadcast media also took an interest in this piece. KPBC-AM conducted a talk show as a result of the article and KLRU-TV (Austin PBS affiliate) began research for a show on domestic violence upon receiving the Forum's media packet.

Other topics have focused on small group health insurance reform, increasing voter turnout, expanding the food stamp program, and children's health.

VIRGINIA FORUM

The oldest of the Forums, the Virginia Forum reaches more than 600,000 households via print, and 1.2 million listeners/viewers via TV and radio. The Forum has produced a number of hard-hitting articles which have focused on the environmental impact of coal mining, the need for collective bargaining in the schools, Chesapeake Bay, air pollution, earned income tax credit, waste management, endangered species, and children's health. The articles continue to resonate powerfully with the media.

A recent article on the Chesapeake Bay, written by Joseph Maroon, Virginia Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation was picked up by the editorial sections of 23 different Virginia newspapers over the course of three months.

Of particular note was a Virginia Forum article on the need for a tax credit for the working poor. The article was written by James Payne and was used extensively by the print and broadcast media. The op-ed appeared in the Roanoke Times & World-News (circ. 121,851), Amelia Bulletin Monitor (circ. 7,300), Charlotte Observer (circ. 4,259), Marion Smyth County News (circ. 7,028), Urbanna Southside Sentinel (circ. 5,290), Strasburg Northern Virginia Daily (circ. 15,430), Goochland Gazette (circ. 7,250), South Boston News & Record (7,500), Richmond Voice (Circ. 40,000), Clarksville Mecklenburg Sun (5,000), Danville Register & Bee (Circ. 22,000), Ashland Hanover Herald-Progress (circ. 9,989), Norton Coalfield Progress (circ. 8,216), Fredericksburg Free Lance Star (circ. 37,798), Henricos Gazette (circ. 19,800), and the Mechanicsville Local. Usage by radio and television was equally high.



Inequity in School Funding: The Threat to Va.'s Future

VIRGINIA FORUM

By Kenneth E. Walker,

Funding for public school education in Virginia ranges from about \$3,500 to over \$8,000 per pupil. A child in Virginia's wealthier school divisions has numerous advantages over a student from a school division in a poor community, including access to better facilities, more instructional materials, smaller classes and more course offerings.

Poorer localities, on the other hand, have a higher percentage of children from poverty stricken and dysfunctional homes. These children need more educational help just to have an even chance, but tragically the school systems they are in have less to offer than their more affluent neighbors.

Allowing this disparity to continue is a bad policy that threatens the future of Virginia. It is also illegal.

The Virginia Constitution makes education a fundamental right of the people of the commonwealth and guarantees an educational system that will assure the "fullest development" of each child's natural talents. The system must be operated for the "common" benefit of all people "throughout" the state. The General Assembly has an obligation to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state.

This can be accomplished through an infusion of state funding to the poor localities combined with a required local effort to raise the total funding to a level comparable with that in the wealthy localities.

Concern about funding inequities led to the formation in 1990 of a coalition of school boards to challenge the state's funding mechanisms. Thirty-eight school divisions and the Virginia Education Association now belong to this coalition.

The coalition has sought to document current inequities to the governor, the Commission on Educational Opportunity for All Virginians and members of the General Assembly, and to encourage ways to provide a funding system that will meet the requirements of the state constitution.

The organization noted, for example, that during 1989-90 academic year, divisions with a higher fiscal capacity spent almost \$110,000 more per classroom for current school operations than divisions of low fiscal capacity.

The coalition has also pointed out that lower salaries contribute to the difficulty poor school divisions have in hiring and retaining teachers. In 1988-89, the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was \$15,224 higher (70 percent more) than in the bottom five school divisions. The average salary for teachers in the state as a whole was \$7,153 higher (33 percent higher) than in the bottom five school divisions. The difference is greater now.

Richard Salmon and Deborah Versteegen, specialists in

school finance, conducted extensive analyses of Virginia's education funding and discovered that the disparities -- already severe -- worsened after new funding formulas were implemented for the 1988-89 school year.

From its inception, the coalition has emphasized correcting disparities through leveling up. In other words, the state should supply adequate fiscal resources to raise the lower school divisions without taking away from the divisions with greater fiscal capacity.

However, during the past 20 years the percent of the total state general fund allocated for elementary and secondary education has decreased significantly -- from more than 50 percent to 35 percent. If the disparity is to be decreased, Virginia must reverse this trend.

A report by the Commission on Educational Opportunity for All Virginians detailed the existence of severe educational disparities and made general recommendations but did not make specific fiscal proposals to address the problem. The leaders of the coalition met with the governor and secretary of education in March 1991. The governor stated that he would announce specific budget proposals by the end of the summer to begin resolving disparities. Leaders of the coalition were not encouraged, however, because the administration had nothing specific to offer at that time.

On April 19, 1991, the coalition voted unanimously to enter suit unless the governor presented by September 13 a specific blueprint for resolving fiscal disparities in education. The coalition has retained former Virginia Attorney General Andrew Miller as legal counsel.

Lawsuits on educational disparity in Kentucky, Texas, and several other states brought significant changes in elementary and secondary education funding. On July 25, 1991, a court in Tennessee also ruled for the plaintiffs, a group of small school districts, in a suit against that state's system of funding. Kern Alexander, a nationally known education and constitutional law specialist, says Virginia has stronger guarantees regarding a fundamental right to education than any other state.

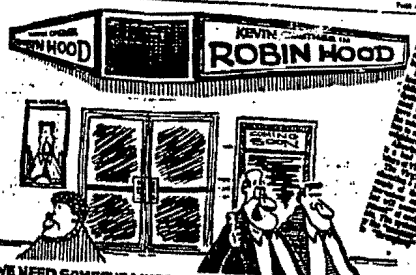
If the problem can be resolved by the executive and legislative branches of state government, a suit will be unnecessary. Members of the coalition, however, are committed to eliminating the disparities.

But the issue of educational disparity is not merely political or legal. The deeper issue is a concern for the children. The children of less affluent areas of Virginia are entitled to an education equal to that available in wealthier parts of the state.

Walker is superintendent of schools for Halifax County and South Boston City Public Schools and chairman of the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding.

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and the truth shall set you free."



WE NEED SOMEONE LIKE THAT WORKING ON BEHALF OF VIRGINIA'S POORER SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

School Funding Deadline Passes

DAVID BEEZ Associated Press
Education endangers
 The deadline for the state to pass a law to equalize school funding has passed, and the Virginia Education Association says the state is now in a "race to the bottom" to see which school district can get the least amount of state money.

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Inequity threatens state's future

Educational disparities must come to an end in Virginia

Expert: Inequitable Education Endangers Virginia's Future

Va. schools VIRGINIA FORUM
 Planning for public school education in Virginia requires about \$3,500 to cover \$3,000 per pupil. A child in a poor school district has no advantage over a child in a rich school district. The system must be open to all children, not just those who can pay for it.

Disparity in price-per-student illegal

Open Forum
 Cited in 1990, the coalition has sought to document the magnitude of disparity in public school funding in the state. Walker says, for example, that the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was \$31,000 in 1989-90, while the average in the bottom five was \$21,000. Walker, who is superintendent of the state's largest school district, says the disparity is "grossly greater than it appears, says Walker, who is superintendent of the state's largest school district."

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The Washington Post

Schools and Fairness in Virginia

Educational opportunities vary from the poor to rich counties
 The Washington Post article discusses the significant differences in educational resources between wealthy and poor counties in Virginia, highlighting the impact on student performance and future prospects.

Rural Schools To Vote On State Funding Suit

Rural Schools To Vote On State Funding Suit
 A coalition of rural school divisions is preparing to file a lawsuit against the state government, arguing that the current funding system is unconstitutional and fails to provide a basic level of education for all children.

"Inequity in School Funding: The Threat to Virginia's Future"

By Kenneth E. Walker; distributed September 5, 1991

CITY	NEWSPAPER	CIRCULATION	USED AS
Amelia	Amelia Bulletin Messenger	7,300	op-ed
Ashland	Hanover Herald Progress	9,989	op-ed
Berryville	The Clarke Courier	2,613	news
Blackstone	Courier Record	5,227	op-ed
Bland	Bland Messenger	1,991	op-ed
Clarksville	Mecklenburg Sun	5,000	op-ed
Clarksville	The News-Progress	6,000	op-ed
Covington	Virginian-Review	8,500	news-AP
Danville	Register & Bee	27,300	op-ed
Galax	The Gazette	8,903	op-ed
Harrisonburg	Daily News-Record	30,809	news-AP
Marion	Smyth County News	7,028	op-ed
Monterey	The Recorder	4,570	op-ed
Norton	The Coalfield Progress	7,150	op-ed
St. Paul	Clinch Valley Times	2,670	op-ed
South Boston	News & Record	7,500	op-ed
Standardsville	Greene County Record	2,611	op-ed
Strasburg	Northern Virginia Daily	14,740	op-ed
Tappahannock	Rappahannock Times	4,417	news
Tazewell	Clinch Valley News	5,000	op-ed
Urbanna	Southside Sentinel	5,290	op-ed
Washington, DC	Washington Post (circ. for VA)	400,000	staff editorial
TOTAL:		574,608	

Inequity in school funding: the threat to Virginia's future

Funding for public school education in Virginia ranges from about \$3,500 to over \$8,000 per pupil. A child in Virginia's wealthier school divisions has numerous advantages over a student from a school division in a poor community, including access to better facilities, more instructional materials, smaller classes and more course offerings.

Poorer localities, on the other hand, have a higher percentage of children from poverty stricken and dysfunctional homes. These children need more educational help just to have an even chance, but tragically the school systems they are in have less to offer than their more affluent neighbors.

Allowing this disparity to continue is a bad policy that threatens the future of Virginia. It is also illegal.

The Virginia Constitution makes education a fundamental right of the people of the commonwealth and guarantees an educational system that will assure the "fullest development" of each child's natural talents. The system must be operated for the "common" benefit of all people "throughout" the state. The General Assembly has an obligation to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state.

This can be accomplished through an infusion of state funding to the poor localities combined with a required local effort to raise the total funding to a level comparable with that in the wealthy localities.

Concern about funding inequities led to the formation in 1990 of a coalition of school boards to challenge the state's funding mechanisms. Thirty-eight school divisions and the Virginia Education Association now belong to this coalition.

The coalition has sought to document current inequities to the governor, the Commission on Educational Opportunity for All Virginians and members of the General Assembly, and to encourage ways to provide a funding system that will meet the requirements of the state constitution.

The organization noted, for example, that during 1989-90 academic year, divisions with a higher fiscal capacity spent almost \$110,000 more per classroom for current school operations than divisions of low fiscal capacity.

The coalition has also pointed out that lower salaries contribute to the difficulty poor school divisions have in hiring and retaining teachers. In 1988-89, the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was \$15,224 higher (70 percent more) than in the bottom five school divisions. The average salary for teachers in the state as a whole was \$7,153 higher (33 percent higher) than in the bottom five school divisions. The difference is greater now.

Richard Salmon and Deborah Versteegen, specialists in school finance, conducted extensive analyses of Virginia's education funding and discovered that the disparities -- already severe -- worsened after new funding formulas were implemented for the 1988-89 school year.

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Virginia Forum

By KENNETH E. WALKER
Chairman of the Coalition for Equity
in Educational Funding

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However, during the past 20 years the percent of the total state general fund allocated for elementary and secondary education has decreased significantly -- from more than 50 percent to 35 percent. If the disparity is to be decreased, Virginia must reverse this trend.

A report by the Commission of Educational Opportunity for All Virginians detailed the existence of severe educational disparities and made general recommendations but did not make specific fiscal proposals to address the problem. The leaders of the coalition met with the governor and secretary of education in March 1991. The governor stated that he would announce specific budget proposals by the end of the summer to begin resolving disparities. Leaders of the coalition were not encouraged, however, because the administration had nothing specific to offer at that time.

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If the problem can be resolved by the executive and legislative branches of state government, a suit will be unnecessary. Members of the coalition, however, are committed to eliminating the disparities.

But the issue of educational disparity is not merely political or legal. The deeper issue is a concern for the children. The children of less affluent areas of Virginia are entitled to an education equal to that available in wealthier parts of the state.

Kenneth E. Walker is superintendent of schools for Halifax County and South Boston City Public Schools and chairman of the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding. Opinions expressed are his own.

A Clipping From
Virginia Press Ser-
News Clipping Bu-
P.O. Box C-3201,
Richmond, VA 23261

Bland Messeng
Bland, VA
Circulation: 1,95

SEP 26 1991
Date

come to an end in Virginia

By KENNETH E. WALKER
Virginia Forum

90

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A fundamental right

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VIRGINIA FORUM

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Please see FORUM, p. A - 5

Hanover Herald Progress
Ashland, VA
Circulation: 9,989

Date: OCT 9 2 1991

(Walker is superintendent of schools for Halifax County and South Boston City Schools and chairman of the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding.)

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Continued from p. A - 4

FORUM

KEVIN COSTNER
ROBIN HOOD

KEVIN COSTNER IN
ROBIN HOOD



There are very few people who don't become more interesting when they stop talking.
— Mary Lowr

WE NEED SOMEONE LIKE THAT WORKING ON BEHALF OF VIRGINIA'S POORER SCHOOL DISTRICTS!

Educational disparities must come to an end in Virginia

By KENNETH E. WALKER
Virginia Forum

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A fundamental right

The Virginia Constitution makes education a fundamental right of the people of the commonwealth and guarantees an educational system that will assure the "fullest development" of each child's natural talents. The system must be operated for the "common" benefit of all people "throughout" the state. The General Assembly has an obligation to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state.

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VIRGINIA FORUM

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The salary issue

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The coalition has also pointed out that lower salaries contribute to the difficulty poor school divisions have in hiring and retaining teachers. In 1988-89, the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was \$15,224 higher (70 percent more) than in the bottom five school divisions. The average salary for teachers in the state as a whole was \$7,153 higher (33 percent higher) than in the bottom five school divisions. The difference is greater now.

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However, during the past 20 years the percent of the total state general fund allocated for elementary and secondary education has decreased significantly - from more than 50 percent to 35 percent. If the disparity is to be decreased, Virginia must reverse this trend.

A report by the Commission on Educational Opportunity for All Virginians detailed the existence of severe educational disparities and made general recommendations but did not make specific fiscal proposals to address the problem. The leaders of the coalition met with the governor and secretary of education in March 1991. The governor stated that he would announce specific budget proposals by the end of the summer to begin resolving disparities. Leaders of the coalition were not encouraged, however, because the administration had nothing specific to offer at that time.

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HERALD PRESS

OPINION

"... and the Truth shall set you free."

Forum

Continued from p. A-4

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But the issue of educational disparity is not merely political or legal. The deeper issue is a concern for the children. The children of less affluent areas of Virginia are entitled to an education equal to that available in wealthier parts of the state.

(Walker is superintendent of schools for Halifax County and South Boston City Schools and chairman of the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding.)

The Clarke Courier

Berryville, VA

Circulation: 2,613

Date: OCT 03 1991

Disparity in price-per-student illegal

Funding for public school education in Virginia ranges from about \$3,500 to over \$8,000 per pupil. Allowing this disparity to continue is bad social policy that threatens the future of Virginia, says an alliance of poorer school districts. It is also illegal, warns the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding, which says it will bring suit to end the disparities if the governor does not propose to do so.

"The Virginia Constitution makes education a fundamental right of the people of the Commonwealth," say Dr. Kenneth E. Walker, chairman of the coalition. "The state has an obligation under its constitution to provide an educational system that will assure the 'fullest development' of the child's natural talents. This system must be operated for the 'common' benefit of all people 'throughout' the state."

Created in 1990, the coalition has sought to document the magnitude of disparity in public school funding in the state. Walker notes, for example, that the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was

Open Forum

more than \$15,000 (70 percent) higher than in the bottom five school divisions. In the 1989-90 academic year, affluent school districts spend almost \$110,000 more per classroom for the operation of their school than poor school districts.

If anything, the disparity is actually greater than it appears, says Walker, who is superintendent of

schools for both Halifax County and South Boston City Public Schools. Poorer localities, he argues, have a higher percentage of children from poverty-stricken and dysfunctional homes. "These children need more educational help just to have an even chance, but tragically the school systems they are in have less to offer than their more affluent neighbors," he says.

Thirty-eight school divisions and the Virginia Education Association now belong to the school funding coalition. This is not surprising, says Walker. "Urban and poor rural school divisions share many common interests regarding disparity. Several urban systems, like the rural, have low fiscal capacity. Both urban and rural school divisions have a high percentage of at-risk children. Urban systems have problems and costs associated with density of population, and rural systems have those associated

with sparsity."

Similar groups have won lawsuits attacking education funding inequity in Texas, Kentucky and several other states, notes Walker. One nationally known specialist in school law says that Virginia has stronger provisions regarding education as a fundamental right in its constitution than any other state, says Walker. Other experts, he adds, have concluded that the funding disparity actually became worse in the 1988-89 school year.

The General Assembly has an obligation, says Walker, to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state. This can be accomplished, he adds, through an infusion of state funding to the poorer localities combined with a required local effort to raise the total of state and local funding to a level comparable to that in the wealthy localities.

Children are bottom line

In Virginia's search for equal opportunity schools

By KENNETH E. WALKER

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Kenneth Walker is superintendent of schools for Halifax County and South Boston City Public Schools and chairman of the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding. He wrote this commentary for the Virginia Forum.

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SAT - 23,000 SUN - 27,300

School funding inequity threatens state's future

Kenneth E. Walker

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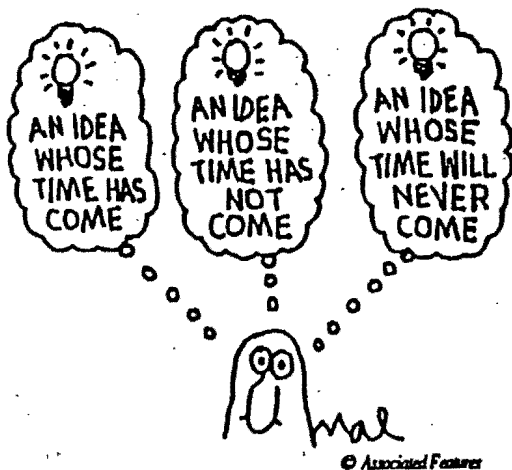
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© Associated Features

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Inequity in school funding: The threat to Virginia's future

by Kenneth E. Walker
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— cont. pg. 17, col. 1

Other voices

— cont. from page 1

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Amelia Bulletin Monitor
Amelia, VA
Circulation: 7,300

Date SEP 12 1991

A Clipping From
Virginia Press Services
News Clipping Bureau
P.O. Box C-32015
Richmond, VA 23261-2015

Daily News-Record
Harrisonburg, VA
Circulation: 30,809

Date: _____

Rural Schools To Vote On State Funding Suit

ROANOKE (AP) — A coalition of Virginia's poorer school districts most likely will vote next week to file a lawsuit designed to force state funding increases, chairman Kenneth Walker said Thursday.

The coalition, representing 38 districts and the Virginia Education Association, authorized its executive committee to file the lawsuit if Gov. L. Douglas Wilder failed to propose a solution to funding inequities by today.

The executive committee will meet Tuesday in Roanoke to decide whether the Board of Education's proposals to improve the school system fall short of changes needed to avoid a lawsuit.

"All we have so far is the Board of Education initiatives," said Walker, the school superintendent in Halifax County. "We don't think we have that much."

James Dyke, Wilder's secretary of education, said he may talk with Walker and other members of the Coalition for Equity in Educational

Funding before the deadline passes to urge them to avoid a court fight. But he said, "I don't have anything further to report."

Dyke said if a lawsuit is filed, Wilder and the Legislature are likely to put recommendations for education reform on hold until the litigation is resolved.

Walker said the coalition could vote to file the lawsuit but delay court hearings until after the General Assembly adopts a school-funding plan and then judge whether to proceed.

Dyke said, "I don't see much difference between those two options. We would still be in a litigation mode."

"We would like to see this thing dealt with in the legislative and executive arenas," Dyke said.

"Taxpayers are best served if it is done through that process. I'm optimistic the coalition will see that it is the best option for all Virginians."

But Walker said the school system in Virginia, where annual funding ranges from about \$3,500 to more than \$8,000, is failing to serve students equally.

In an article for Virginia Forum, an educational organization in Richmond, Walker said, "A child in Virginia's wealthier school divisions has numerous advantages over a student from a school division in a poor community, including access to better facilities, more instructional materials, smaller classes and more course offerings."

Rich Vs Poor... Big Difference In Quality Of Schools



MECKLENBURG
Sun
Clarksville, VA

Date SEP 11 1991

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School Inequity

Continued from Page 10

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Inequity In School Funding:

The Threat To Va's Future

By Kenneth E. Walker

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Allowing this disparity to continue is a bad policy that threatens the future of Virginia. It is also illegal.

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education a fundamental right of the people of the commonwealth and guarantees an educational system that will assure the "fullest development" of each child's natural talents. The system must be operated for the "common" benefit of all people "throughout" the state. The General Assembly has an obligation to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state.

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The coalition has also pointed out that lower salaries contribute to the difficulty poor school divisions have in hiring and retaining teachers. In 1988-89, the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was \$15,224

Continued On Page 13

The News-Progress

Clarksville, VA

Circulation: 5,997

SEP 1 1 1991

Date:

A Clipping From
Virginia Press Services
News Clipping Bureau
P.O. Box C-32015
Richmond, VA 23261-2015

Virginian-Review
Covington, VA

12

Date

School Funding Deadline Passes

By DAVID REED Associated Press
Writer

ROANOKE (AP) — Today is the deadline a coalition of Virginia's poorer school districts set for Gov. L. Douglas Wilder to propose a solution to state school funding inequities or prepare for a lawsuit.

But Wilder, who plans to announce this afternoon whether to seek the Democratic nomination for president, has other things on his mind. And Secretary of Education James Dyke said Thursday, "I don't have anything further to report."

The Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding probably will vote next week to file the lawsuit designed to force state funding increases,

chairman Kenneth Walker said.

The coalition, representing 38 districts and the Virginia Education Association, authorized its executive committee to file the lawsuit if the deadline passed without a suitable funding plan.

Walker said the school system in Virginia, where annual funding ranges from about \$3,500 to more than \$8,000 per pupil, is failing to serve students equally.

The executive committee will meet Tuesday in Roanoke to decide whether the Board of Education's proposals to improve the school system fall short of changes needed to avoid a lawsuit.

"All we have so far is the Board of

Education initiatives," said Walker, the school superintendent in Halifax County. "We don't think we have that much."

Dyke said he planned to talk with Walker and other members of the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding before the meeting to urge them to avoid a court fight.

Dyke said if a lawsuit is filed, Wilder and the General Assembly are likely to put recommendations for education reform on hold until the litigation is resolved.

Walker said the coalition could vote to file the lawsuit, but delay court hearings until after the General Assembly adopts a school funding plan and then judge whether

to proceed.

Dyke said, "I don't see much difference between those two options. We would still be in a litigation mode.

"We would like to see this thing dealt with in the legislative and executive arenas," Dyke said. "Taxpayers are best served if it is done through that process. I'm optimistic the coalition will see that it is the best option for all Virginians."

In an article for Virginia Forum, an educational organization in Richmond, Walker said, "A child in Virginia's wealthier school divisions has numerous advantages over a student from a school division in a poor community.

Educational opportunities vary from the poor to rich counties

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Virginia Forum

by Kenneth Walker
Columnist

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However, during the past 20 years the percent of the total state general fund allocated for elementary and secondary education has decreased significantly -- from more than 50 percent to 35 percent. If the disparity is to be decreased, Virginia must reverse this trend.

A report by the Commission on Educational Opportunity for All Virginians detailed the existence of severe educational disparities and made general recommendations but did not make specific fiscal proposals to address the problem. The leaders of the coalition met with the governor and secretary of education in March 1991. The governor stated that he would announce specific budget proposals by the end of the summer to begin resolving disparities. Leaders of the coalition were not encouraged, however, because the administration had nothing specific to offer at that time.

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See Walker, page 10A

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Continued from page 4A

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Smyth County News

Marion VA
Circulation: 7,028

Date SEP 11 1991

Guest editorial 90

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See Guest, page 5

Guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher, editor, or staff of the Greene County Record.

Greene County Record

Stanardsville, VA

Circulation: 2,611

SEP 12 1991

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★ Guest

Continued from page 4

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Rich vs. poor in

Va. schools **VIRGINIA FORUM**



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News & Record
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Date SEP 18 1991

Disparity lawsuits bringing change to many educational funding systems

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The Recorder
Monterey, VA
Circulation: 4,570

Date SEP 27 1991

Children of equal worth

By Kenneth E. Walker 90

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by Dr. Kenneth E. Walker
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Courier Record
Blackstone, VA
Circulation: 5,227

Date: 1 2 1991

Education endangered in Virginia

Funding for public school education in Virginia ranges from about \$3,500 to over \$8,000 per pupil. Allowing this disparity to continue is bad social policy that threatens the future of Virginia, says an alliance of poorer school districts.

It is also illegal, warns the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding, which says it will bring suit to end the disparities if the governor does not propose a plan to do so by September 13.

"The Virginia Constitution makes education a fundamental right of the people of the Commonwealth," says Dr. Kenneth E. Walker, chairman of the coalition. "The state has an obligation under its constitution to provide an educational system that will assure the 'fullest development' of the child's natural talents. This system must be operated for the 'common' benefit of all people 'throughout' the state."

Created in 1990, the coalition has sought to document the magnitude of disparity in public school funding in the state. Walker notes, for example, that the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was more than \$15,000 (70 percent) higher than in the bottom five school divisions. In the 1989-90 academic year affluent school districts spent almost \$110,000 more per classroom for the operation of their schools than poor school districts.

If anything, the disparity is actually greater than it appears, says Walker, who is superintendent of schools for both Halifax County and South Boston City Public Schools. Poorer localities, he argues, have a higher percentage of children from poverty-stricken and dysfunctional homes.

"These children need more educational help just to have an even chance, but tragically the school systems they are in have less to offer than their more affluent neighbors," he says.

Thirty-eight school divisions and the Virginia Education Association now belong to the school funding coalition. This is not surprising, says Walker. "Urban and poor rural school divisions share many common interests regarding disparity. Several urban systems, like rural, have low

fiscal capacity. Both urban and rural school divisions have a high percentage of at-risk children. Urban systems have problems and costs associated with density of population, and rural systems have those associated with sparsity."

Similar groups have won lawsuits attacking education funding inequity in Texas, Kentucky and several other states, notes Walker. One nationally known specialist in school law says that Virginia has stronger provisions regarding education as a fundamental right

in its constitution than any other state, says Walker.

The General Assembly has an obligation, says Walker, to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state. This can be accomplished, he adds, through an infusion of state funding to the poorer localities combined with a required local effort to raise the total of state and local funding to a level comparable to that in the wealthy localities.

Expert: Inequitable Education Endangers Virginia's Future

90
Funding for public school education in Virginia ranges from about \$3,500 to over \$8,000 per pupil. Allowing this disparity to continue is bad social policy that threatens the future of Virginia, says an alliance of poorer school districts. It is also illegal, warns the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding, which says it will bring suit to end the disparities if the governor does not propose a plan to do so by September 13.

"The Virginia Constitution makes education a fundamental right of the people of the Commonwealth, says Dr. Kenneth E. Walker, chairman of the coalition. "The state has an obligation under its constitution to provide an educational system that will assure the 'fullest development' of the child's natural talents. This system must operate for the 'common' benefit of all people 'throughout' the state."

Created in 1990, the coalition has sought to document the magnitude of disparity in public school funding in the state. Walker notes, for example, that the average salary for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was more than \$15,000 (70 percent) higher than in the bottom five school divisions. In the 1989-90 academic year affluent school districts spent almost \$110,000 more per classroom for the operation of their schools than poor school districts.

If anything, the disparity is actually greater than it appears, says Walker, who is superintendent of schools for both Halifax County and South Boston City Public Schools. Poorer localities, he argues, have a higher percentage of children from poverty-stricken and dysfunctional homes. "These children need more educational help just to have an even chance, but tragically the school systems they are

in have less to offer than their more affluent neighbors," he says.

Thirty-eight school divisions and the Virginia Education Association now belong to the school funding coalition. This is not surprising, says Walker. "Urban and poor rural school divisions share many common interests regarding disparity. Several urban systems, like the rural, have low fiscal capacity. Both urban and rural school divisions have a high percentage of at-risk children. Urban systems have problems and costs associated with density of population, and rural systems have those associated with sparsity."

Similar groups have won lawsuits attacking education funding inequity in Texas, Kentucky and several other states, notes Walker. One nationally known specialist in school law says that Virginia has stronger provisions regarding education as a fundamental right in its constitution than any other state, says Walker. Other experts, he adds, have concluded that the funding disparity actually became worse in the 1988-89 school year.

The General Assembly has an obligation, says Walker, to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state. This can be accomplished, he adds, through an infusion of state funding to the poorer localities combined with a required local effort to raise the total of state and local funding to a level comparable to that in the wealthy localities.

A Clipping From
Virginia Press Services
News Clipping Bureau
P.O. Box C-32015
Richmond, VA 23261-2015

Rappahannock Times
Tappahannock, VA
Circulation: 4,417

SEP 12 1991

Date _____

Inequity in school funding threatens future

By KENNETH E. WALKER ⁹⁰

Funding for public school education in Virginia ranges from about \$3,500 to over \$8,000 per pupil. A child in Virginia's wealthier school divisions has numerous advantages over a student from a school division in a poor community, including access to better facilities, more instructional materials, smaller classes and more course offerings.

Poorer localities, on the other hand, have a higher percentage of children from poverty stricken and dysfunctional homes. These children need more educational help just to have an even chance, but tragically the school systems they are in have less to offer than their more affluent neighbors.

Allowing this disparity to continue is a bad policy that threatens the future of Virginia. It is also illegal.

The Virginia Constitution makes education a fundamental right of the people of the commonwealth and guarantees an educational system that will assure the "fullest development" of each child's natural talents. The system must be operated for the "common" benefit of all people "throughout" the state. The General Assembly has an obligation to develop a funding system that will provide equal funding for equal effort in various parts of the state.

This can be accomplished through an infusion of state funding to the poor localities combined with a required local effort to raise the total funding to a level comparable with that in the wealthy localities.

Concern about funding inequities led to the formation in 1990 of a coalition of school boards to challenge the state's funding mechanism. Thirty-eight school divisions and the Virginia Education Association now belong to this coalition.

The coalition has sought to document current inequities to the governor, the Commission on Educational Opportunity for All Virginians and members of the General Assembly, and to encourage ways to provide a funding system that will meet the requirements of the state constitution.

The organization noted, for example, that during 1989-90 academic year, division with a higher fiscal capacity spent almost \$110,000 more per classroom for current school operations than divisions of low fiscal capacity.

The coalition has also pointed out that lower salaries contribute to the difficulty poor school divisions have in hiring and retaining teachers. In 1988-89, the average salary

for teachers in the top five school divisions in Virginia was \$15,224 higher (70 percent more) than in the bottom five school divisions. The average salary for teachers in the state as a whole was \$7,153 higher (33 percent higher) than in the bottom five school divisions. The difference is greater now.

Richard Salmon and Deborah Verstegen, specialists in school finance, conducted extensive analyses of Virginia's education funding and discovered that the disparities - already severe - worsened after new funding formulas were implemented for the 1988-89 school year.

From its inception, the coalition has emphasized correcting disparities through leveling up. In other words, the state should supply adequate fiscal resources to raise the lower school divisions without taking away from the divisions with greater fiscal capacity.

However, during the past 20 years the percent of the total state general fund allocated for elementary and secondary education has decreased significantly - from

more than 50 percent to 35 percent. If the disparity is to be decreased, Virginia must reverse this trend.

A report by the Commission on Educational Opportunity for All Virginians detailed the existence of severe educational disparities and made general recommendations but did not make specific fiscal proposals to address the problem. The leaders of the coalition met with the governor and secretary of education in March 1991. The governor stated that he would announce specific budget proposals by the end of the summer to begin resolving disparities. Leaders of the coalition were not encouraged, however, because the administration had nothing specific to offer at that time.

On April 19, 1991, the coalition voted unanimously to enter suit unless the governor presented by Sept. 13 a specific blueprint for resolving fiscal disparities in education. The coalition has retained former Virginia attorney general Andrew Miller as legal counsel.

Lawsuits on educational disparity in Kentucky, Texas, and several other states brought significant

changes in elementary and secondary education funding. On July 25, 1991, a court in Tennessee also ruled for the plaintiffs, a group of small school districts, in a suit against that state's system of funding. Kern Alexander, a nationally known education and constitutional law specialist, says Virginia has stronger guarantees regarding a fundamental right to education than any other state.

If the problem can be resolved by the executive and legislative branches of state government, a suit will be unnecessary. Members of the coalition, however, are committed to eliminating the disparities.

But the issue of educational disparity is not merely political or legal. The deeper issue is a concern for the children. The children of less affluent areas of Virginia are entitled to an education equal to that available in wealthier parts of the state.

Walker is superintendent of schools for Halifax County and South Boston City Public Schools and chairman of the Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding.

The Gazette
Galax, VA
Circulation: 8,903

Date: SEP 16 1991

Inequity continues; coalition may soon file suit against state

Note: The Coalition for Equity in Educational Funding will meet Sept. 17 to decide whether to file suit in the matter of equity in school funding.

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The Coalfield Progress
Norton, VA
Circulation: Tues 7,150
Th 8,216

Date SEP 12 1991

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• Forum

Forum Page 14

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In closing I am reminded of two pieces that haunt me, motivate me in this area of thought. One, in my freshman philosophy course at Hendrix College in Arkansas, Dr. Ellis repeatedly pounded the table in his quest to motivate us to go out into the world and face the adversity necessary to make positive change, admonishing us to remember that saying from THE PRINCE: "There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things." We have not a choice, we must take this moment in time to introduce a new order for our families. For as Governor Clinton said back in 1987 as we closed our year's work on MAKING AMERICA WORK: America won't work if Americans can't work, or learn, or believe in the promise of tomorrow.

~~1987~~

To recog this

Each of us must have the courage to always be changing, to recognize mistakes, to abandon what doesn't work, to challenge ourselves to do better. Concern for people- all people with their own hopes/dreams/potentials- must start at the top - but it can't end there. We must empower clients or customers, parents, friends, advocates, neighborhoods, communities and voluntary organizations across this great nation to do what our people need. The President can and will take the lead but only you can complete the task. We will work with you. We won't always succeed, and we won't always be able to do everything that you - and we - would want.

org. of indiv. like you

child at a time
DC - The most imp. thing

But I can promise you this....we will never relent in our effort to give every person a chance to develop fully. Because at the end of ~~Bill Clinton's second term, at the dawn of the third millennium~~, I want to be able to say to Hamp Rasco and Mary-Margaret Rasco and to all the children of America ---with a clear conscience and a full heart....I did my best. And I want all of you at this meeting to join me in being able to look at one another and say: We did our best.

my time in

Thank you,

1

I am very pleased and honored to be before you today. Never in my years of government to date have I spoken or even thought about speaking before a group with this many journalists present. But when your invitation came, and I took the opportunity to learn more about the American Forum, I could not even think about NOT coming....one of my most strongly held feelings about my work here is to look for ways to better reach outside the beltway, and quite frankly even outside the more traditional "outside the beltway" groups for input. Your work is quite impressive and I hope today will be the beginning of a partnership between us...you the American Forum and our Domestic Policy staff and Council membership. Along those lines let me remark that I consider our staff very accessible and encourage you to utilize my office AND me to be put in contact with individuals/agencies with whom you wish to dialogue. I also believe your Board at a national level could be a valuable tool for two way communication between your organization and thus the citizens of this country, particularly those interested in grass roots change AND our administration and so I encourage a call from your Board at regular intervals if you are interested in sitting down to discuss items of mutual interest.

You know, if you're like me, a luncheon speaker after the session described just prior to this one where I have a feeling you heard impressive successes, well a luncheon speaker is sometimes a nuisance...you want to TALK about what you have heard about from each state, assimilate it before moving on to the afternoon agenda...so I'll try to add to that assimilation and agenda of things to think about, be quick and allow you to continue your conversation with one another.

During my short number of years as a classroom teacher and elementary counselor, during my volunteer days in Little Rock when I worked on foster care, juvenile justice, and adult probation issues, throughout my 20 years of parenting and advocating for a child labelled as cerebral palsied and retarded as well as through 15+ years of actively working in government....throughout all of this I have mourned most two things: *I could consistently see happening:*

An increasing poverty of ignited and positive spirit *in people* — particularly in children

Professionals' piecemeal views of individuals, families and communities

In 1986-87, then Governor Clinton was the chairman of the National Governors' Association. Like his predecessor, Governor Clinton decided to have a theme for the year. He talked long and hard about moving the next step from the education project of the previous year. And he talked about how it must be an integration of Human Development and Economic Opportunity...and it wasn't easy convincing people inside and outside the organization that the two should be integrated. Governor Clinton pushed and the project "Making America Work" was one of two parts: one called JOBS, GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS and one called BRINGING DOWN THE BARRIERS, barriers which included welfare, teen pregnancy, adult literacy issues, substance abuse, and school dropouts. It all sounds fairly familiar doesn't it? And yet, the dialogue began -- and with each passing year I see more people making that connection, that need for integration more solidly- but it is not happening quickly enough. I believe this is the greatest "reinventing" that must occur at a policy and program implementation level...we must continue to look hard at how we do business differently to make the integration real.

The Clinton administration has been committed from the beginning to a reinvention of government ^{our citizens, our} for families....as you look over our key domestic accomplishments, "family" is central:

-an economic package and indicators which show a good beginning: inflation is down, interest rates are down, the deficit is down, investment is up. And in the last 10 months, this economy has produced more jobs in the private sector than in the previous four years.

-the Family Leave Law which says you can't be fired if you take a little time off when a baby is born or a parent is sick.

-a reform of the college loan program and national service - all designed to give more Americans a chance to broaden the availability of further education while in many cases giving those citizens a chance to serve their communities at home, to help repair the frayed bonds of community.

-a change in the Earned Income Tax Credit which on April 15th will give between 15 million and 18 million working families on modest incomes a tax cut, not a tax increase.

-the introduction of a comprehensive health care reform plan that guarantees health security to all Americans.

But we must do more....we MUST do more.

As President Clinton said a ~~little over a week~~ ^{recently} ago in Memphis..."I do not believe we can repair the basic fabric of society until people who are willing to work have work. Work organizes life. It gives structure and discipline to life. It gives meaning and self-esteem to people who are parents. It gives a role model to children.

Further...we cannot, I submit to you, repair the American community and restore the American family until we provide the structure, the value, the discipline and the reward that work gives.

And finally he said that, yes, we will deal with the ravages of crime and drugs and violence, BUT "unless we recognize that it's due to the breakdown of the family, the community and the disappearance of jobs...and unless we say some of this cannot be done by government because we have to reach deep inside to the values, the spirit, the soul and the truth of human nature...none of the other things we seek to do will ever take us where we need to go."

No, it can't be done by government PROGRAMS in the traditional sense but we in government need help in thinking through how we best stimulate this process of individual, family and community healing and growth, that is where real reinvention must occur.

I am reminded ~~inwardly~~ on a constant basis of what an elderly physical therapist who had dedicated her life to young disabled children told me early in my son's life...she said, "Carol, I don't know a lot of philosophy or theory about programs for children like Hamp, but I think the best thing I can tell you as a parent is to remember the words of Joseph Addison, an essayist, poet "Everyone must have

Something to do

Someone to love

Something to hope for."

And how right she was and is in the case of not only Hamp, but people with whom I've worked with and worked for....and so at each age of life in our quest to reinvent how we approach ~~the~~ *our work for individuals* — ~~problems of the world~~ we must ask

What do they have to do? If a young child, what is the preschool program available? Can they play, dance, sing, and soar? If a



child, ⁶⁻¹⁸⁺ is school relevant? Is school safe? I was struck ^{w/ contrasts} ~~this~~ ^{one} morning, ^{recently} as I went to my door to get the paper. My daughter, in an attempt to make SURE I didn't forget to call her school early ^{that morning} ~~this a.m.~~ to let them know she would not be there due to illness had left me a note in front of the door so that I ^{would step on it &} wouldn't miss it....we had ^{undergone} quite a round ^{the previous} ~~last~~ night because she didn't WANT to stay home from school, ^{even if she did have fever & strep} and then I opened the door and the Washington Post stares back at me: ACROSS U.S., SCHOOLS ARE FALLING APART. Now, this particular article was about the physical condition of the school plants but I bet you know what I thought... ~~and I thought first~~ ^{then} of an essay I recently read by Benjamin Barber ~~and as I read it I thought of the key phrase I learned in an otherwise~~ ^{surely} inadequate higher educational experience designed to prepare me to teach elementary school...I was taught there are two educations, one should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live. We do too far little of heeding that maxim.

Until our communities get as fired up about our schools as we/they do about athletic teams, car manufacturing plant locations, Olympic sites, etc. we won't have a good answer to the question: What have we given the children - young and adolescent to DO?

And for adults: What do they have to do?

Jobs -

It must be recognized that

Economic security, ~~therefore~~, can no longer be found in a particular job. It must be rooted in a continuing capacity to learn new things. That means we must have a system of life long learning beginning with higher standards in our schools.

Now, we are trying to adopt a whole new approach in our national effort to raise standards in education. We believe the right standard for America isn't whether we are better than we were, but whether we're the best in the world. This cannot be a Democratic or a Republican concern -- it must be an American imperative. We know we have to expect more of our students and our schools, we have to regulate their details less, but hold them to higher standards and measure whether our kids are really learning enough to compete and win in the global economy.

8

9

Number 2: Someone to love...and we all know that before you can love another, you must love yourself. Think about children's faces you've seen in ~~the~~ poor neighborhoods, ^{children from families in distress} adults you've passed on ~~the~~ streets ^{of declining communities or harmed in some other way}...do they have much to love about themselves? Many don't and therefore we can't truthfully expect the love to flow outward. ^{Children w/out 2 or even 1 parent in a home, parents unable to provide for children, any}

Number 3: Something to hope for....My daughter who didn't want to miss a day of the eighth grade today has many hopes and I both thrive in that gleam of hope in her eyes constantly look for ways to nurture and keep that sparkle present....help me, help our administration look for ways to create that hope for all citizens of this great country.

Child in a classroom where safety is an issue. It's tough to love yourself & thus others.

Hope is tough when the uncertainty of providing adequate health care for a child, long term care for

While The Clinton Administration led with an economic package that addressed the health of our economy....we are NOW saying to the American people - join with us in looking at the health of people and together we can make a difference. Yes, you should join in the dialogue and make certain we will serve people appropriately, fully within this plan. But first and foremost, let's seize the moment, join our voices and hard work by looking at those things ALL people need within a health plan and stand together on what people - all people - first require.

a parent faces you.

Health Security: The Principles

Security. Every American will receive a Health Security Card that guarantees you a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away. If you lose your job, move, or get sick, you're covered. That's not true today.

Savings. To control health care costs we're going to spend smarter and make health plans compete for your business. We're going to cap how fast your health premiums can go up, eliminate wasteful spending, and crack down on fraud.

Quality. We're going to provide free preventive care, give you the information you need to choose, and invest in training more family doctors. We'll make what's best about American health care better.

Choice. We're going to preserve your right to choose your doctor. Many people, in fact, will have increased choices, including a traditional fee-for-service plan that too many of us are denied.

Simplicity. We're going to streamline the paperwork that's choking you and your doctors and nurses. Simplifying forms and cutting back on regulations will give doctors more time to spend caring for you.

Responsibility. Everyone should contribute to health care. Right now, we all pay for those who don't take responsibility. It's time to say: "No one should get a free ride."

10

These are principles upon which I hope you will join us with insistence.

and work hard for those things upon which we can all agree and not allow ourselves to fracture this debate beyond success with an approach that only focuses on the areas of disagreement.

And so, in regard
to #3 - HOPE

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Health security frees up a family for hopes and dreams, safer streets help free children to look at what education can be for them...but untreated ear infections, uncorrected vision problems, lack of immunizations, school buildings in AMERICA where children must wear their coats in order to be warm enough to even begin to pay attention, ..and we wonder where hope has gone?

school rms where

Children
go thru
metal detectors
to enter.

In the Enterprise Zone legislation we have an opportunity to test our real commitment to reinvention...will we truthfully recognize the need for integration of human development and economic opportunity? Will we work hard to listen to the communities chosen, follow their lead on how much assistance they need and want, and look for ways to intervene very differently

12

12/09/93 19:28 8

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from before? ways that seek to assist individuals to reach down inside themselves? Or will we simply designate the zones, the communities and sit here waiting on quarterly reports, make a site visit or two.

To put things bluntly, it isn't often we see in a community whether a block, a zone, in the power centers of a large city, in the boardroom, public or private...it's not often we find social workers, health care outreach personnel, early childhood and K-12 front line educators, government workers and "big business" types sitting down together....each has had their own niche and seldom the twain have met. I submit to you that until each side - human development and economic development are willing to sit at a common table - real reinvention of government for ^{individual} families will

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not occur. We can make application procedures simpler for families seeking help, we can legislate incentives and tax credits, we can give health security, we can write more meaningful standards for our students... all on the one side known as human development and we can talk about investments, deficits, inflation, job creation, etc. on the economic development side but until we recognize that giving people at every age

- (1) something to do;
- (2) someone to love; and
- (3) something to hope for

are all a part of a mandatory whole just as people and families and communities are both parts and "whole" entities"... we will not have accomplished the task before us.

12:00 Arrival

12:30 Speech

Departure between 1-1:30

No Q+A is confirmed

AMERICAN FORUM



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SENDER INFORMATION:

DATE: 9 December 1993

From: Dennis Zeck

Telephone: _____

SENT TO:

Boslyn Miller

FAX #:

456-2878

COMMENTS:

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER PAGE):

4

**American Forum
Strategic Planning Conference
Agenda**

Friday, December 10, 1993

National Press Club

529 - 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC

Main Lounge

- 10:00 - 10:15 **Opening session...welcome and overview**
- 10:15 - 10:55 **"Future of America's Newspapers"**
 Guest Speaker:
 Carl Sessions Stepp
 University of Maryland, College of Journalism
 former reporter & editor with the Charlotte Observer
- 10:55 - 12:00 **Introductions By Individual State Forums**
 Report on successes and challenges
 State Chairs and Representatives
 Introduction of state members

First Amendment Room

- 12:00 - 1:30 **LUNCH**
- "Domestic Policy Priorities Under the Clinton Administration"**
 Luncheon speaker
 Carol Rasco
 Domestic Policy Advisor to President Clinton
- 1:45 - 4:00 **"The Changing Role of Media"**
 Moderator:
 Larry Kirkman, Benton Foundation
- Part I: New Technologies**
 Jeff Chester, Center for Media Education
 Frank Daniels III, Raleigh News & Observer
- Part II: Community and Diversity**
 Paul Delaney, University of Alabama,
 School of Journalism
 Ellen Hume, Annenberg Washington Program

Zenger Room

- 4:00 - 6:00 **Reception**

6:00 - 7:30

Happy hour...

Screening and discussion of "Uprising of '34"

6:30

Dinner on one's own . . .

Sunday, December 12, 1993

9:00 - 10:00 am

New Initiatives Panel

- Potential w/ radio
- Karl Bren radio program in VA
- Potential w/ tv
- Tom Turnipseed program in SC
- Potential with cable
- George Stoney, Professor of Film, NYU
- Co-Producer, "Uprising of '34"
- public access advocate

10:00 - 12:00

*Finalize plan *****

- Criteria that must be met before expansion
 - in Southern region
 - into new region
- Goals

12:00 - 1:30

Lunch and Guest Panelists

How Advocacy Groups can take Advantage of National Conference of State Legislators Opportunities at New Orleans

Mary DeGonia, Capitol Perspectives
Naïla Bolus, Women Legislators' Lobby

1:30

Closing remarks

Board meeting to review September vote and other policy issues raised at conference

①

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things: *I could consistently see happening:*

An increasing poverty of ignited and positive spirit *in people* — particularly in children

Professionals' piecemeal views of individuals, families and communities

The Clinton administration from the beginning
to a reinvention of government for ^{our citizens, our} families... as you look over
our key domestic accomplishments, "family" is central:

-an economic package and indicators which show a good beginning:
inflation is down, interest rates are down, the deficit is down,
investment is up. And in the last 10 months, this economy has
produced more jobs in the private sector than in the previous
four years.

-the Family Leave Law which says you can't be fired if you take a
little time off when a baby is born or a parent is sick.

-a reform of the college loan program and national service - all
designed to give more Americans a chance to broaden the
availability of further education while in many cases giving
those citizens a chance to serve their communities at home, to
help repair the frayed bonds of community.

-a change in the Earned Income Tax Credit which on April 15th
will give between 15 million and 18 million working families on
modest incomes a tax cut, not a tax increase.



In 1986-87, then Governor Clinton was the chairman of the National Governors' Association. Like his predecessor, Governor Clinton decided to have a theme for the year. He talked long and hard about moving the next step from the education project of the previous year. And he talked about how it must be an integration of Human Development and Economic Opportunity....and it wasn't easy convincing people inside and outside the organization that the two should be integrated. Governor Clinton pushed and the project "Making America Work" was one of two parts: one called JOBS, GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS and one called BRINGING DOWN THE BARRIERS, barriers which included welfare, teen pregnancy, adult literacy issues, substance abuse, and school dropouts. It all sounds fairly familiar doesn't it? And yet, the dialogue began -- and with each passing year I see more people making that connection, that need for integration more solidly- but it is not happening quickly enough. I believe this is the greatest "reinventing" that must occur at a policy and program implementation level...we must continue to look hard at how we do business differently to make the integration real.

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-a change in the Earned Income Tax Credit which on April 15th will give between 15 million and 18 million working families on modest incomes a tax cut, not a tax increase.



-the introduction of a comprehensive health care reform plan that guarantees health security to all Americans.

But we must do more....we MUST do more.

As President Clinton said a ~~little over a week ago~~ ^{recently} in Memphis..."I do not believe we can repair the basic fabric of society until people who are willing to work have work. Work organizes life. It gives structure and discipline to life. It gives meaning and self-esteem to people who are parents. It gives a role model to children.

Further...we cannot, I submit to you, repair the American community and restore the American family until we provide the structure, the value, the discipline and the reward that work gives.

And finally he said that, yes, we will deal with the ravages of crime and drugs and violence, BUT "unless we recognize that it's due to the breakdown of the family, the community and the disappearance of jobs...and unless we say some of this cannot be done by government because we have to reach deep inside to the values, the spirit, the soul and the truth of human nature...none of the other things we seek to do will ever take us where we need to go."

No, it can't be [redacted] AMS in the traditional sense but we in government need help in thinking through how we best stimulate this process of individual, family and community healing and growth, that is where real reinvention must occur.

I am reminded ~~inwardly~~ on a constant basis of what an elderly physical therapist who had dedicated her life to young disabled children told me early in my son's life...she said, "Carol, I don't know a lot of philosophy or theory about programs for children like Hamp, but I think the best thing I can tell you as a parent is to remember the words of Joseph Addison, an essayist, poet "Everyone must have

Something to do

Someone to love

Something to hope for."

And how right she was and is in the case of not only Hamp, but people with whom I've worked with and worked for....and so at each age of life in our quest to reinvent how we approach ~~our~~ *our work for individuals* — ~~problems of the~~ we must ask

What do they have to do? If a young child, what is the preschool program available, sing, and soar? If a



6-18+
 child, is school relevant? Is school safe? I was struck ^{w/ contrasts} ~~this~~
 morning ^{recently} as I went to my door to get the paper. My daughter, in
 an attempt to make SURE I didn't forget to call her school early
~~that morning~~ ^{that morning} this a.m. to let them know she would not be there due to illness
 had left me a note in front of the door so that I ^{would step on it &} wouldn't miss
 it....we had ^{undergone} quite a round ^{the previous} last night because she didn't WANT to
 stay home from school ^{even if she did have fever & strep}..and then I opened the door and the
 Washington Post stares back at me: ACROSS U.S., SCHOOLS ARE
 FALLING APART. Now, this particular article was about the
 physical condition of the school plants but I bet you know what I
 thought... ^{then} and I thought ~~first~~ of an essay I recently read by
 Benjamin Barber ^{early}..and as I read it I thought of the key phrase I
 learned in an otherwise inadequate higher educational experience
 designed to prepare me to teach elementary school...I was taught
 there are two educations, one should teach us how to make a
 living and the other how to live. We do too far little of
 heeding that maxim.

Until our communities get as fired up about our schools as
 we/they do about athletic teams, car manufacturing plant
 locations, Olympic sites, etc. we won't have a good answer to the
 question: What have we given the children - young and adolescent
 to DO?

And for adults: What do they have to do?

Jobs -

It must be recognized that

Economic security, ~~therefore~~, can no longer be found in a particular job. It must be rooted in a continuing capacity to learn new things. That means we must have a system of life long learning beginning with higher standards in our schools.

Now, we are trying to adopt a whole new approach in our national effort to raise standards in education. We believe the right standard for America isn't whether we are better than we were, but whether we're the best in the world. This cannot be a Democratic or a Republican concern -- it must be an American imperative. We know we have to expect more of our students and our schools, we have to regulate their details less, but hold them to higher standards and measure whether our kids are really learning enough to compete and win in the global economy.

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Number 2: Someone to love...and we all know that before you can love another, you must love yourself. Think about children's faces you've seen in ~~the~~ poor neighborhoods, ^{children from families in distress} adults you've passed on ~~the~~ streets ^{of declining communities or harmed in some other way}...do they have much to love about themselves? Many don't and therefore we can't truthfully expect the love to flow outward.

Children w/out 2 or even 1 parent in a home, parents unable to provide for children, any

Number 3: Something to hope for....My daughter who didn't want to miss a day of the eighth grade today has many hopes and I both thrive in that gleam of hope in her eyes constantly look for ways to nurture and keep that sparkle present....help me, help our administration look for ways to create that hope for all citizens of this great

Child in a classroom where safety is an issue.

It's tough to love yourself & then others.

Hope is tough when the uncertainty of providing adequate health care for a child, long term care for

While The Clinton Administration led with an economic package that addressed the health of our economy...we are NOW saying to the American people - join with us in looking at the health of people and together we can make a difference. Yes, you should join in the dialogue and make certain we will serve people appropriately, fully within this plan. But first and foremost, let's seize the moment, join our voices and hard work by looking at those things ALL people need within a health plan and stand together on what people - all people - first require.

a parent faces you

Health Security: The Principles

Security. Every American will receive a Health Security Card that guarantees you a comprehensive package of benefits that can never be taken away. If you lose your job, move, or get sick, you're covered. That's not true today.

Savings. To control health care costs we're going to spend smarter and make health plans compete for your business. We're going to cap how fast your health premiums can go up, eliminate wasteful spending, and crack down on fraud.

Quality. We're going to provide free preventive care, give you the information you need to choose, and invest in training more family doctors. We'll make what's best about American health care better.

Choice. We're going to preserve your right to choose your doctor. Many people, in fact, will have increased choices, including a traditional fee-for-service plan that too many of us are denied.

Simplicity. We're going to streamline the paperwork that's choking you and your doctors and nurses. Simplifying forms and cutting back on regulations will give doctors more time to spend caring for you.

Responsibility. Everyone should contribute to health care. Right now, we all pay for those who don't take responsibility. It's time to say: "No one should get a free ride."

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These are principles upon which I hope you will join us with insistence. and work hard for those things upon which we can come together not allow ourselves to fracture this debate beyond success with an approach that only focuses on the areas of disagreement.

And so, in regard
to #3 - HOPE



...es up a family for
hopes and dreams, safer streets help free children to look at
what education can be for them...but untreated ear infections,
uncorrected vision problems, lack of immunizations, school
buildings in AMERICA where children must wear their coats in
order to be warm enough to even begin to pay attention, ^{school rms where}...and we
wonder where hope has gone?

In the Enterprise Zone legislation we have an opportunity to test
our real commitment to reinvention...will we truthfully
recognize the need for integration of human development and
economic opportunity? Will we work hard to listen to the
communities chosen, follow their lead on how much assistance they
need and want, a ^{Children go thru metal detectors for entry.}
...rvene very differently

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from before? ways that seek to assist individuals to reach down inside themselves? Or will we simply designate the zones, the communities and sit here waiting on quarterly reports, make a site visit or two.

To put things b... .. often we see in a community whether a block, a zone, in the power centers of a large city, in the boardroom, public or private...it's not often we find social workers, health care outreach personnel, early childhood and K-12 front line educators, government workers and "big business" types sitting down together...each has had their own niche and seldom the twain have met. I submit to you that until each side - human development and economic development are willing to sit at a common table - real reinvention of government for ^{indiv ↓} families will

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not occur. We can make application procedures simpler for families seeking help, we can legislate incentives and tax credits, we can give health security, we can write more meaningful standards for our students... all on the one side known as human development and we can talk about investments, deficits, inflation, job creation, etc. on the economic development side but until we recognize that giving people at every age

(1) something to do;

(2) someone to love; and

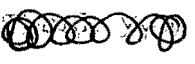
(3) something to hope for

are all a part of a mandatory whole just as people and families and communities are both parts and "whole" entities"...

we will not ... the task before us.

In closing I am reminded [redacted] me, motivate me in this area of thought. One, in my freshman philosophy course at Hendrix College in Arkansas, Dr. Ellis repeatedly pounded the table in his quest to motivate us to go out into the world and face the adversity necessary to make positive change, admonishing us to remember that saying from THE PRINCE: "There is nothing more difficult [redacted] more perilous to conduct, or more

uncertain in [redacted] lead in the introduction of a new order of things [redacted] we have not a choice, we must take this moment in time to introduce a new order for our families. For as Governor Clinton said back in 1987 as we closed our year's work on MAKING AMERICA WORK: America won't work if Americans can't work, or learn, or believe in the promise of tomorrow.



o recog this

Each of us must have the courage to always be changing, to recognize mistakes, to abandon what doesn't work, to challenge ourselves to do better. Concern for people- all people with their own hopes/dreams/potentials- must start at the top - but it can't end there. We must empower clients or customers, parents, friends, advocates, neighborhoods, communities and voluntary organizations across this great nation to do what our people need. The President can and will take the lead but only you can complete the task. We will work with you. We won't always succeed, and we won't always be able to do everything that you - and we - would want.

as indiv. & org. to grade up of indiv. like you

child at a time DC - The most imp. thing

But I can promise you this....we will never relent in our effort to give every person a chance to develop fully. Because at the end of ~~Bill Clinton's second term, at the dawn of the third millennium~~ ^{my time in} I want to be able to say to Hamp Rasco and Mary-Margaret Rasco and to all the children of America ---with a clear conscience and a full heart....I did my best. And I want all of you at this meeting to join me in being able to look at one another and say: We did our best.

Thank you,