

June 17 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

by the South African Government of the law which classified all South Africans by race at birth. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Community Members in Grand Junction, Colorado *June 17, 1991*

What a day. What a magnificent day. Thank you very, very much, Governor Romer, and all of you. Let me just say at the outset, I wish all of you—not all at the same time—but all of you could have been riding in that limousine from the airport. There is no way that I can begin to tell you how emotional Barbara and I felt about that warm welcome to this wonderful corner of God's Earth. You really made us feel at home. And you talk about patriotism and values—it's right here. Thank you very, very much.

Let me first salute the Governor, about whom I'll have more to say in a minute, doing an absolutely sensational job chairing our National Education Goals Panel. I want to single out our leaders of the State legislature who are partners with the Governor in this effort. My friend, longtime friend, Ted Strickland, the president of the Colorado Senate; Chuck Berry, the speaker of the Colorado house; and all the other distinguished individuals on the steering committee for Colorado 2000.

And it's not just the big names. I just met with the leaders in this community who are leaders for revolutionary change in education. We had a fascinating seminar and I learned a lot from them. I salute your Congressman Ben Campbell, who's doing a great job for this district. Dr. Rosier, President Kieft, and others who—those are just two of the many that joined us for this panel I referred to. And, of course, to our outstanding Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander. He is leading this country in a wonderful new direction.

A word about your geography. On the way in I was struck by the majestic views of the Grand Mesa, that great big table that looks like just the kind of place where God might have done His homework or put down the palette He used to paint the

sky. Some beauty. You are very, very lucky.

And I thought, as we drove in, about the vast frontiers that lie out here. And some will say that America's frontiers have been fully explored, developed; some will even say lost. But one frontier knows no limits, needs constant development, and cannot be lost. And that's the frontier of the American mind, the unlimited vista of American imagination.

As a people, our love of learning has guided every step of our progress. I love it when Barbara Bush, committed to literacy and education as she is, comes home and tells me these moving tales of how kids are trying to struggle against adversity to learn, how adults learning to read create a new dimension in their lives. And I might say, with some little husbandly pride, the Silver Fox is doing one heck of a job for education.

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 declared this: "Knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." Now that same need to encourage education brings us together today, 204 years later. You can think of education as a competitiveness issue, or an economic issue—but above all, education in America is a moral imperative.

Thomas Jefferson knew, and Eastern Europe recently reminded us, that the powers of any society rest ultimately with the people themselves. Education provides the grounding in ideas and values crucial to maintaining democracy and prosperity. It serves as our greatest source of social, economic, and yes, moral power.

No domestic program has greater influence over our future. None attracts more attention or generates more passion on the part of our people. And none will have a higher priority with this President than

educational excellence. And that's why, together with all of the Nation's Governors and with dedicated citizens across the Nation, we set six ambitious national education goals for Americans of all ages. This wasn't a White House initiative, wasn't just by the Governors. It was a combined partnership in setting these education goals for the first time in our country's history.

We cannot achieve these goals without declaring a revolution in American education. This revolution demands far more than revolving-charge, blank-check spending. It demands that every community raise expectations, accelerate accountability through parental choice, and reward results. And that's exactly what Grand Junction is doing in leadership in this great country of ours.

Our America 2000 education strategy challenges all Americans to raise expectations, to pledge genuine accountability, and to create a new generation of American schools. It sets out to transform a nation at risk into a nation of students. It calls for cultivating communities where learning can and will happen.

All of you here have been doing just that, and I congratulate you. You're part of a national crusade for reform—I should interject, a State crusade. And I'm so impressed with the connected television program that Governor Romer has just told us about. You're part of this national crusade which is a movement that takes different forms in different communities all across our nation, depending upon local needs and resources.

Local businesses need a talented labor pool. Schools need guidance in developing programs and curricula. Every citizen needs to know that the kid standing on the street corner is going somewhere and isn't just another lost soul waiting to become a statistic, no one knowing his name.

And we need you. We need every citizen to join this revolution for American education, whether it's the business executive who takes time out to visit a classroom; the older American who knows so much and has so much to share, tutoring kids at the local library; or especially the parent who takes a few extra minutes each night to read with a child.

Every one of our national education goals relies on everyone in every community across this nation. And I'm confident that if Grand Junction is any example at all, we can achieve each and every one of these national goals.

And that's so impressive—what's so impressive about what your State is doing, why I'm so pleased with Colorado 2000. Governor Romer's leadership in responding to my call for America 2000 communities has been outstanding. He's been way out front in a leadership role. And tonight, as you heard him say, virtually all of Colorado's 176 school districts will meet, connected by high technology, to adopt goals, set strategy, and yes, measure results. And that's just the kind of thoughtful, community-based action that we'll need to reinvigorate and transform America's schools. You see, we haven't just launched Washington, DC, 2000. It's America 2000. And what that means is Colorado 2000, Grand Junction 2000.

And I challenge every community in America to do what you are doing: to become an America 2000 community, to embrace the national education goals and accomplish them. Community involvement and community innovation will enable students of the future to set and meet world-class standards of achievement. But world-class standards begin here in the hearts and imaginations of people who care about education, who care about their kids, and who care about the future.

About 150 miles from here, in a little town called Norwood, Colorado, a woman named Carolyn Sharp is doing what students of the past couldn't have dreamed possible. Seventy-four years old, she's too far away to get radio or TV broadcast. But now she gets satellite. She gets satellite-delivered programming through the Mind Extension University and does her learning long-distance. Seventy-four, and here's what she says: "I'd already been boning up, doing some history research on my own, and I wanted to take a class." And now, by satellite, she's studying French, history, and physics. She's a great role model. And for my part, I've been trying to learn how to use a computer, and I'm going to keep on trying. I will not challenge any of the 12

kids in Nintendo, however.

At its most fundamental, learning involves ambition and imagination. We Americans have never been known for a lack of imagination, and we've had set goals for education as ambitious as any that we've for the West, for space, or for any other American frontier.

With the active support of people like you, I'm confident that we will meet these national goals and help our children toward the future that they deserve.

May I thank you for your leadership and interest in educating not just the kids in Grand Junction, not just the kids in Colorado, but by example you are demonstrating an interest in helping kids all across the country.

May God bless our young people. May God bless our teachers. And may God bless

each and every one of you that's willing to take a leadership role in making America 2000 a fantastic education success.

Thank you all, and God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the Mesa County Courthouse. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado; Ted Strickland and Chuck Berry, Colorado State legislators; Representative Ben Nighthorse Campbell; Paul W. Rosier, superintendent of the Mesa County Valley School District; Ray N. Kieft, president of Mesa State College; and Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander. Prior to his remarks, the President attended a meeting of the Mesa County School Board. Following his remarks, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI.

Remarks at a Fundraising Dinner for Senatorial Candidate Bob Kasten in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 17, 1991

Thank you, Bob Kasten and Eva, great to be with you. I am so pleased to see an early supporter and great friend of mine who has certainly done a wonderful job in this State, and that is your outstanding Governor Tommy Thompson and his wife, Sue Ann. What a wonderful couple you have running this State.

And your Lieutenant Governor is with us, Scott McCallum; your State treasurer Kate Zeuske. And, of course, I want to introduce somebody special with whom I've been traveling a great deal, a former Governor who is now leading our country towards what we call America 2000, a renaissance, a true renaissance, in education. And I mean Governor Lamar Alexander, who's standing right here. Lamar, please stand up.

And as he and I contemplate the national problems, I can guarantee you that we can learn an awful lot not only from Bob Kasten in the Senate in his commitment to education but from the programs that Tommy Thompson has already put into effect to encourage excellence in education in this

State.

I'd be remiss if I didn't single out my old friend, John MacIver, who worked me to death back years ago and then stayed at my side when I was down and dusted me off. And he and a handful of others have been my most stalwart political supporters in this country. And he's actively involved in Bob Kasten's race, as I knew he would be—and thank God he is. To Mike Grebe, who is the Kasten chairman, as well as our national committeeman: always stepping up to the plate, always in a role of leadership, I salute him. And I am delighted to see others—Helen Bie, our national committeewoman is here. David Opitz, the chairman, our State chairman. And party's going to be important now as we move into 1992. And Wayne Oldenberg, who is doing such an outstanding job as Bob Kasten's finance chairman.

All of these people are making it happen. Bob tells me this is one of the largest fundraising events that he's ever had. And I think it's a tribute to him, of course, but