

June 27 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

1974); and Harvard Law School (J.D., 1977). He was born on November 17, 1948, in Durham, NC. Mr. Wethington is mar-

ried, has three children, and resides in McLean, VA.

Statement on Signing the Education Council Act of 1991

June 27, 1991

Today I have signed S. 64, the "Education Council Act of 1991." This legislation is the first legislative success for our AMERICA 2000 strategy and is an example of the constructive, bipartisan effort needed to transform our educational system.

This legislation establishes a National Commission on Time and Learning and a National Council on Education Standards and Testing. Their establishment will help us to focus on issues critical to schools and students in this Nation and to rethink how we can best achieve educational excellence in America.

The National Commission on Time and Learning, which is similar to the Commission proposed in our AMERICA 2000 plan, will examine the quality and adequacy of the study and learning time of the Nation's elementary and secondary students. It will consider issues regarding the length of the school day and year, the role of homework, the use of time spent for academic subjects, year-round professional opportunities for teachers, and the use of schools for extended learning programs.

The National Council on Education Standards and Testing will report, by December 31, 1991, to the Congress, the Sec-

retary of Education, and the National Education Goals Panel on the establishment of national education standards and an appropriate system of voluntary national testing, activities proposed in AMERICA 2000. It explicitly recognizes the importance of the National Education Goals Panel and its role.

I urge the Congress to pass quickly the remaining legislative components of AMERICA 2000, including proposals that would create a New Generation of American Schools, promote parental choice, and establish Governors' Academies for Teachers and School Leaders. AMERICA 2000 is a vital part of our decade-long crusade to help America reach the National Education Goals. Passage of the "AMERICA 2000 Excellence in Education Act" will hasten our advance toward achieving those goals.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
June 27, 1991.

Note: S. 64, approved June 27, was assigned Public Law No. 102-62. The statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 28.

Statement on South Africa's Accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

June 28, 1991

I welcome and strongly commend the Government of South Africa's decision to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This decision reflects the growing international conviction to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

as exemplified by the adherence to the treaty by other states in the region. It further demonstrates the statesmanship and vision of President de Klerk as he takes South Africa into a new era beyond apartheid and regional conflict, toward reconciliation and

partnership.

I strongly urge those nations in the region who have not acceded to the treaty to do so in order to join the growing community of nations firmly bound to the principles

of nuclear nonproliferation, to strengthen the international regime against the spread of nuclear weapons, and to promote the cause of peace and global cooperation.

Letter on the Resignation of United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall

June 28, 1991

June 28, 1991

Dear Mr. Justice:

It is with deep regret that I acknowledge your letter of retirement from the Supreme Court effective at such time as a successor is qualified.

Our Nation is deeply indebted to you for your long and distinguished public service. Your courageous leadership in the fight for equal opportunity, exemplified by your brief and oral argument in the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, is a powerful example of how one person's commitment to his convictions can shape a nation's attitude on such a fundamental issue.

Your distinguished service to our country, first on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, as our Nation's 33rd Solicitor General, and capped by a great career on the Supreme Court will also be long remembered.

Barbara and I wish you happiness and

every blessing in your years of retirement.
Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

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June 27, 1991

My Dear Mr. President:

The strenuous demands of court work and its related duties required or expected of a Justice appear at this time to be incompatible with my advancing age and medical condition.

I, therefore, retire as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States when my successor is qualified.

Respectfully,

THURGOOD MARSHALL

Note: Originals were not available for verification of the content of these letters.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting Budget Rescissions

June 28, 1991

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report two proposed rescissions totaling \$542,000,000 and two revised deferrals of budget authority now totaling \$2,950,976,437. Including the revised deferrals, funds reported as withheld now total \$10.2 billion.

The proposed rescissions affect the Departments of Commerce and Housing and Urban Development. The deferrals affect

International Security Assistance and the Department of Health and Human Services. The details of the deferrals and proposed rescissions are contained in the attached report.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Represent-