

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:21 a.m. in Meridian Hill Park. In his remarks, he referred to Josephine Butler, vice chair, Stephen W. Coleman, founder and president, and Rev. Morris

Samuel, vice chair emeritus, Friends of Meridian Hill; actors Dennis Weaver and Chevy Chase; and Amory Lovins, director of research, Rocky Mountain Institute, Snowmass, CO.

Remarks on Presenting the Teacher of the Year Award

April 21, 1994

Thank you very much, Secretary Riley, and thank all of you for being here to recognize Sandra McBrayer, our 1994 Teacher of the Year.

I want to say as I begin that the work in the Senate and the House has kept Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman Lynn Schenk from coming here today. But all three of them called and asked to be remembered at this occasion and to say they are proud of and strongly support the work that Sandra McBrayer has done.

One of the things I hoped to do when I ran for President was to increase our national effort to improve education in ways that made sense to grassroots educators who were out there making a difference. After serving for 12 years as a Governor and spending more time on schools and jobs than any other two issues, I have probably spent more time in more different kinds of classrooms than any person who has had the privilege to hold this office. And one of the things that I always believed was that virtually every challenge in American education had been met with genuine excellence by someone somewhere, that there were people committed, good people all across this country, that were trying to come to grips with the awesome challenges of educating all America's children to world-class standards and that what we had to do at the national level was to clarify what those standards are, to give people some means of measuring whether they were being achieved, and then to support the grassroots reforms and the people who were carrying them out. That's what we're trying to do with Goals 2000, with the school-to-work bill, with all our other educational initiatives.

And that's why I was so pleased, when I first met Sandra McBrayer in California not very long ago and heard about her work, that she was actually chosen as the Teacher of the Year. We met when she came to the Goals 2000 sign-

ing when she was just a California Teacher of the Year, and I didn't know she was going to get such a quick promotion, but I sort of suspected it because of what she has done.

I cannot tell you how much it means to me to have someone here who's proved that you could teach homeless kids and that they count and they matter and they can learn and they can achieve great things. She knows that children have to be fed; they need clothes to wear and a place to sleep at night, and it's harder if they don't have those things.

She started the Homeless Outreach School in San Diego in a storefront in 1988. Her school provides, in addition to education, two meals a day, showers, and laundry facilities. Her students don't follow a regular schedule; they come to class between their jobs or when they're not caring for children of their own. But they each fulfill a weekly contract of studies that are completed either at home or in school.

This is very important. This is one of the central ideas of Goals 2000. We should measure our educational effort not by how teachers do everything all day, every day, but by whether certain results are achieved. And then we should allow our teachers and our school principals to devise their own best ways to achieve those results based on the realities that they deal with.

She is living every day what I believe is the central idea that would do more to transform and revolutionize American education than any other single thing in public education, at least, if we could implement it and implement it all over America.

The most important lessons of these students may not be learned inside the classroom. Maybe it's the confidence they gain by finally having someone like Sandra McBrayer to believe in them, someone who believes they count in society and they have something to contribute and the rest of us need them.

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You might have heard the line that teaching kids to count is fine but teaching them what counts is best. Sandy McBrayer has done even more than that; she's taught her children that they count. Over 25 of her students who started out on the streets are now in college.

So I want to thank her for her dedication to the students of the Homeless Outreach School, for being a model for all teachers

throughout the country, and for the whole idea of education reform. And I'm proud to present her the 1994 Apple Award as America's Teacher of the Year. I'll hold your apple for you. I'll polish your apple for you. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Statement on the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments *April 21, 1994*

I commend the work already done by Secretary O'Leary, other members of the Cabinet, and the many other agency officials on the issue of Government-sponsored human radiation experiments which took place during the past 50 years. Today's first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments is another step by the administration to have an honest and open approach to its investigation of the cold-war-era experiments.

The Advisory Committee has an important task in determining whether the U.S. Govern-

ment treated its own citizens wrongfully through human experimentation. Both those Americans who were the subject of these questioned experiments and the scientists who performed them deserve a fair and thorough investigation.

Only by dealing honestly with the past can we hope to build a better future.

NOTE: The Executive order of January 15 which established the Committee is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the School-to-Work Opportunities Legislation *April 21, 1994*

I am gratified by today's final passage of the "School-to-Work Opportunities Act." I am particularly pleased that this vital economic opportunity legislation passed with such broad bipartisan support.

This legislation will help millions of our young people enter the middle class and secure the American dream for themselves and their families. It will give them the opportunity to receive advanced, academically rigorous technical training. And it will help them obtain the knowledge and skills they need to get jobs that pay well and offer real chances for career advancement.

School-to-work is central to our efforts to guarantee lifetime learning for every citizen. In a rapidly changing world economy, what you earn increasingly depends on what you learn. We are putting in place an ambitious agenda

to prepare our people. Last year Congress enacted my proposal to make college loans more affordable for middle class students. Just 3 weeks ago, I signed into law the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, which set national educational standards. And by the end of this year, I look forward to signing legislation that will reform and expand Head Start, reconfigure Federal aid to elementary and secondary education, and transform our outmoded unemployment system into a world-class reemployment system.

This is a time of real ferment and real achievement for America's workers and students. Working together, we can continue to break gridlock and build new opportunities for American families to prosper in a rapidly changing economy.