

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
POLICY, EXPORT AND TRADE PROMOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 1996, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMON SENSE ON SCHOOL  
CHOICE

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in today's RECORD an unusually clear article on the complex subject of school vouchers. Ms. Claudia Smith Brinson at the State newspaper in Columbia, SC, has made the case eloquently that the choice of taxpayer funding for private and religious schools is a bad one. Specifically, she points out its history as a means of minimizing desegregation, its lack of results, and its lack of promise compared to other proven education reforms. I commend her for her eloquence and hope my colleagues will benefit from her column.

The column follows:

[From the State, May 15, 1996]

LET'S DECIDE JUST EXACTLY WHAT SCHOOL  
CHOICE MEANS

(By Claudia Smith Brinson)

The concept of school choice has been around a long time. In the '60s, it was promoted in the South as a means of minimizing court-ordered desegregation. In the '70s, economist Milton Friedman talked up what he called the "free-choice" model. In the '80s and early '90s, as dissatisfaction with public schools grew, experimentation kicked in.

School choice covers an enormous range. At its most basic, parents exercise choice when they buy a house in a certain neighborhood. When a school provides school-within-a-school options, choice is offered. When a school district provides alternative or magnet schools, choice is offered. Some districts allow parents with a need for flexibility regarding work or child care to use intra-district choice.

While, in this state, we have few magnet schools, half of our school districts offer alternative schools or second-chance programs; more than half allow high-school students to take college courses; almost two-thirds permit inter-district transfers. Our governor's schools for arts and mathematics and science increase choice statewide for our brightest students.

Nationwide, choice is often employed to help with the urban suburban desegregation issue. In St. Louis, Mo., inner-city children can apply to attend mostly white suburban schools. To improve schooling for Hispanic students in San Antonio, the Multilingual Program provides a language and cultural focus for academically successful students. In Montgomery County, Md., a magnet school program was introduced to improve integration. In Monclair, N.J., all schools are magnet schools, and transportation is provided.

In Cambridge, Mass., parents can choose, with the help of an information center, any public school in the district. In Minnesota, the whole state allows open enrollment, although students must supply transportation.

Charter schools, in which parents and teachers contract with the state to provide a particular kind of education, are another option. Just over 100 charter schools are in operation nationwide. Here, the House has passed legislation allowing charter schools; a Senate subcommittee is discussing it.

Vouchers are rare. In Milwaukee, to desegregate schools and improve urban children's schooling, low-income parents were invited to apply for public funds to send their children to private or public suburban schools. An attempt to add church schools is on hold because the state Supreme Court deadlocked on its constitutionality. In Boston, private money is used to send low-income children to parochial schools. In San Antonio and Indianapolis, private businesses pay low-income students' tuition at private schools.

The favorite arguments for using vouchers (sending public money through parents) for private schools rest on three faulty premises. The first is that children make great academic strides in private and parochial schools. When you take out those oh-so-important factors such as parents' income and education, what remains is a very small advantage in scores for parochial and private school students.

The second faulty premise is that education can be compared to car-making. The premise goes like this: Education is just another manufacturing process; vouchers will create competition; competition will automatically improve product quality. But children and learning are far more complicated than autos and welding. Education is a service, and public education is a service with important democratic goals, such as preparing children for full citizenship, minimizing social inequities and promoting cultural unity.

It's not much better an analogy, but compare education, instead, to a service like public hospitals. No one in need is turned away, and yes, those who can afford to do so shop around. However, the patient (both consumer and product, like our students) cannot be cured at any location if destructive behaviors persist. Even with some of the magical pills our technology has created, radical changes in lifestyle are often required. Likewise, poverty, parental disengagement, behavior or discipline problems that many of our children bring into the schoolhouse cannot be quickly and permanently cured by shifting locale. (In Milwaukee, where vouchers are being tried, academic scores haven't improved and attrition remains high.)

So vouchers are not a miracle cure. And that is the third faulty premise, that any one new step, such as increased choice or vouchers, will suddenly remake education. The funding equity issue, raised by 40 of our districts, has yet to be ruled on in court. How much good would intra-district choice currently serve in some of the suing, impoverished counties such as Clarendon, Lee, Williamsburg or Jasper? How much help is a \$1,700 voucher to an impoverished family in a rural community without transportation or in an urban community where private schools cost \$6,000-plus a year? What happens then is not that parents are offered more choice, but that private schools are.

If our community, and our Legislature, want to consider choice, first the conversation has to get honest. It can be a legitimate discussion given public dissatisfaction with public schools and a universal desire by parents to do the best possible for their children.

But if we're going to talk about choice, what are we talking about? Increasing variety? Or resegregating? If our state and national constitutions forbid public money supporting church schools, why on Earth is our conversation about choice starting in forbidden territory?

In a state with limited funds, why begin with vouchers when encouragement for more magnet schools, school-within-a school programs and inter- and intra-district transfers would offer more choices to more children at no extra cost? With limited funds, why not start small and emulate programs that work, like the language option in San Antonio or the controlled-choice program in Cambridge? Why take giant, expensive leaps into ideas, such as vouchers, that have barely been tested anywhere?

We have a summer to think this out. •

TRIBUTE TO ASTRONAUT RICK  
LINNEHAN

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the extraordinary accomplishments of Astronaut Rick Linnehan, who will be a mission specialist on the space shuttle *Columbia*, scheduled to leave Cape Canaveral, FL in June.

In 1975, Rick graduated from Pelham High School in Pelham, NH and proceeded to earn a bachelor of science degree in animal science and microbiology at the University of New Hampshire. Later, Rick denied his acceptance to the U.S. Air Force for pilot training and instead opted to attend the Ohio State University College of Medicine to earn his veterinary degree. While Rick's heartening desire to fly was temporarily delayed, his dream never died. Upon finishing his veterinary degree in 1985, Rick applied for NASA's astronaut training program. With the 1986 *Challenger* disaster stalling the program, Rick's dream of space flight was once again put on hold. During this time, Rick worked as a veterinarian before joining an internship with the Baltimore Zoo and Johns Hopkins University from 1986 to 1988. He then joined the military as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, and ended up as chief clinical veterinarian with the Navy's Marine Mammal project in San Diego, CA.

Despite Rick's success in his field of study, he still held on to his dream of one day becoming an astronaut. In 1991, Rick again applied for the astronaut program and was selected along with 18 others out of nearly 3,000 applicants.

After 4 years of dedicated training, Rick will embark on his first journey into space this summer as a crewmember of NASA's Life Sciences and Micro-gravity Spacelab mission. During the 16-day flight, Rick will be part of a medical team that will be checking fellow crewmembers for the effects of prolonged space flight as part of NASA's testing program for the space station.

In memory of another New Hampshire astronaut, Christa McAuliffe,

Rick will carry a lapel pin with him into space from the Concord planetarium. Rick will also bring a New Hampshire flag from the State Legislature, which will be returned to fly in our State House, as well as a banner for the University of New Hampshire, and some personal items for relatives and friends.

New Hampshire is very proud of Rick's extraordinary commitment and hard work to achieve his boyhood dream of space flight. America needs more visionaries like Rick, who not only hold on to their dreams but work hard to achieve them. I congratulate Rick on this outstanding honor and am proud to have him represent us in the final frontier.●

#### CALIFORNIA CITIES ACT TO BAN JUNK GUNS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, last month I introduced legislation with Senators JOHN CHAFEE and BILL BRADLEY to prohibit the manufacture and sale of junk guns—or as they are also called, Saturday night specials. We believe that these cheap, poorly constructed, easily concealable firearms pose such a great threat to public safety that their sale and manufacture should be prohibited.

Nearly 20 years ago, Congress prohibited the importation of junk guns, but allowed their domestic manufacture to soar virtually unchecked. Today, 7 of the 10 firearms most frequently traced at crime scenes are junk guns that cannot legally be imported. My view is that if a gun represents such a threat to public safety that it should not be imported, its domestic manufacture should also be restricted. A firearm's point of origin is irrelevant.

Earlier this year, the City of West Hollywood prohibited the sale of junk guns within the city limit. Shortly thereafter, I introduced my bill, which would ban junk guns nationwide. Since then, California cities have made progress that exceeded my expectations. Once again, California is at the leading edge of a nationwide movement.

This week, the Oakland City Council, with the support of the mayor and the police chief, voted to ban the sale of junk guns. San Francisco is expected to follow shortly. And the city of San Jose is also considering enacting a junk gun ban. The police chiefs of these three cities have all endorsed my bill to ban junk guns nationwide.

I am very proud that these California cities are acting responsibly to take these dangerous firearms off our streets. This momentum is growing into an unstoppable force. The current junk gun double standard cannot be maintained. It is simply a matter of time before Congress acts to apply the same standards to domestically produced junk guns as currently applied to imports.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VERNON J. BAKER

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to speak today about the accomplishments of one of my fellow Idahoans, Vernon J. Baker. Vernon Baker is one of seven African-Americans whose heroic actions in World War II are being belatedly recognized. Vernon has been nominated for this Nation's highest award—the Congressional Medal of Honor.

When 1st Lt. Vernon Baker awoke on the morning of April 5, 1945, I am confident he did not begin the day thinking, "Today, I am going to be a hero." I am more confident he began that morning thinking, "Lord, give me the strength to get me and my men through another day."

In the smokey grayness of predawn, artillery rained on the German mountain stronghold called "Hill X" near Castle Aghinolfi, Italy. First Lieutenant Baker was a platoon leader of 25 men and a recent graduate of Officer Candidate School. Standing five foot five and weighing in at 139 pounds, he led his men to the south side of the draw, within 250 yards of the castle. Seeing a telescope pointing out of the narrow slit of the bunker, he ordered his men to stay down and he crawled to the opening, stuck in his M-1 and fired until the rifle was empty. When he looked inside, one of the two dead Germans was still slumped in his chair. Baker then stumbled upon a camouflaged machine gun nest where he killed two more Germans.

As he reported to his company commander, Captain John Runyan, who like all his superiors was white, he was hit in the head by a "potato masher" hand grenade. It failed to explode and Baker quickly shot and killed the German who had thrown the grenade. While his unit was under heavy fire, he continued into the canyon alone. Discovering a hidden entrance to another dugout, he blasted it open with a grenade and dashed inside, killing two more German soldiers with a discarded machine gun he had picked up off the ground.

Captain Runyan ordered a withdrawal of the unit and told Baker he was going for reinforcements. That was the last time Lieutenant Baker saw Captain Runyan. The reinforcements never arrived. At the end of the battle, Baker regrouped the seven survivors of the 25 man platoon. The unit had killed 26 Germans, destroyed six machine gun nests, two observer posts, and four dugouts.

Vernon Baker was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on July 4, 1945, for his actions that day. The Distinguished Service Cross is the Nation's second highest military award. On the citation for the award, Baker is cited for "outstanding courage" and "daring leadership."

Nearly 50 years later, during an Army review of medals awarded during World War II, the absence of a single African-American from the list of Con-

gressional Medal of Honor winners was duly noted. This began the process to determine if African-Americans had not received the Nation's highest award merely because of racial bias rather than military record under fire. Seven Distinguished Service Medal awards were reevaluated and have now been recommended for upgrade to the Congressional Medal of Honor. Vernon J. Baker is the only surviving nominee from this illustrious group.

Mr. President, on behalf of a grateful nation, I once more want to thank Vernon J. Baker for his courageous actions, on that April day so long ago.●

#### JANET COOPER

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Janet Cooper who will be retiring from the State of Michigan Department of Civil Rights on June 1, 1996. Janet Cooper has given more than three decades of dedicated service in establishing one of the best civil rights agencies in the Nation.

Janet Cooper joined the Michigan Department of Civil Rights as a field investigator in 1963, about the same time I became the general counsel. I knew her as a dedicated and thorough public servant. Since then, she has served the department in many roles including director of the Conciliation and Hearings Division, deputy director of the Enforcement Bureau, and director of the Legal Bureau. She is currently the department deputy and is responsible for the Enforcement Bureau, the Office of Contractual and Business Services, and the Office of Research.

Janet Cooper is an experienced attorney who is known across the country as an expert in the field of civil rights. She has served as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University School of Law and the Detroit College of Law. The Michigan State Bar Foundation honored Janet with the title of Fellow. This title is given to attorneys who have demonstrated outstanding legal ability and a strong dedication to the community.

Janet Cooper is retiring from the Department of Civil Rights, but her work protecting the constitutional rights of all citizens will not end. She will now become the chair of the Metropolitan Detroit Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

I know that my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring Janet Cooper for her many years of dedicated service in upholding the civil rights of all people.●

#### LT. CAROLYN J. FERRARI, M.D.

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the selection of Lt. Carolyn J. Ferrari, M.D. as medical director and physician for Highland Medical Center in Monterey, VA. Dr. Ferrari's acceptance of this key medical position concludes a nearly 3-year-old search by the medical center board of directors.