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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
9-7-97

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

'97 AUG 29 PM3:19

August 29, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Bruce Reed  
Elena Kagan

SUBJECT: DPC Weekly Report

**1. Education -- National Testing Initiative:** A team from the White House and Department of Education worked throughout the week to refine and implement our strategy for defeating the Goodling amendment. Among the key steps taken:

Legislative

- Secretary Riley announced that we will send up legislation at the beginning of next week to put NAGB in charge of the tests. This announcement helped to solidify support in the business community; it also may help to reenlist support from Diane Ravitch and other conservative opinion leaders. Rep. Riggs told us that he would talk with Rep. Goodling about using the NAGB legislation as a basis for a compromise. We remain doubtful that Goodling wants to compromise (or that Riggs will do so without him); but we encouraged Riggs to proceed.
- Secretary Riley made calls to key members in both houses in an effort to shore up our support and explore avenues for compromise. Many similar staff-level conversations have also taken place.
- Reps. George Miller, Bill Clay, and Matthew Martinez are sending a "Dear Colleague" letter in support of the tests and in opposition to the Goodling amendment.

Outreach

- Supporters in the education and business community have stepped up their efforts to contact key members of Congress; a number have also submitted op-eds in support of the tests.
- OPL and DPC have set up meetings with African-American and Hispanic groups in an effort to address their concerns.
- We have enlisted the support of mayors and governors from participating cities

and states.

### Communications

- Your radio address will discuss the importance of national standards and note the threat your initiative faces in Congress.
- Secretary Riley will participate in an event in Philadelphia on Tuesday with Mayor Rendell and Superintendent Hornbeck to highlight impressive test score gains over the last two years -- including gains among LEP students on tests in English.
- The Vice President will do an event on the testing initiative on Thursday and will enlist the support of business leaders in a conference call on Wednesday.

**2. Food Safety:** As you know from yesterday's daily, Secretary Glickman held a press conference today to announce new proposed legislation to give USDA enhanced authority to enforce food safety laws. To emphasize the coordinated nature of our food safety policies, the Secretary also announced that the FDA would seek similar enforcement authority. Both pieces of legislation will go to Congress next week.

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