

Clinton's talk to the Democratic Leadership Council framed the upcoming reform debate. If you want a larger federal role, you're "for" education; if you want decentralized control, you're "against" standards that could guarantee excellence.

Republicans ought to hop into the fray immediately. The best way to protect the sovereignty of local systems is not to hand more power to the Department of Education. Just the opposite: The goals of excellence and local sovereignty would best be served by dismantling the department, and spinning off the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, which provides important and useful educational research.

Today, the federal government makes educators do everything from diagnosing sexual abuse and distributing condoms to serving as guardians for messed-up kids. At the same time it has heaped new duties on educators, it has clamped down on innovations Washington bureaucrats don't like. This happened to Detroit when local authorities tried to set up all-boys schools to deal with their very real problems.

By shutting down the education department while saving its research office, Congress could give Americans just what Bill Clinton is promising—a revitalized sense of local control, aided by a federal clearinghouse that could offer useful data about what does and doesn't work in the classroom.

#### TRIBUTE TO JON A. KASTRUP

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 1997*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the personal achievement of one of our community's most talented and dedicated young men, Mr. Jon A. Kastrup. Jon's own success is sweeter than most, as he not only had to overcome the regular stresses of daily living but, also had to accomplish this while being profoundly deaf.

Many people like Jon would surrender to their condition, but Jon, never questioning his resolve, earned dual degrees in the fields of mechanical engineering and law and now holds the distinction of being one of only four functionally deaf attorneys in the United States. After his graduation from the Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark School of Law, Jon served as a legal intern for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC. Previously, Jon lent his valuable services to the California Center for the Law and Deaf in Oakland, CA where he served as a legal assistant and law clerk, and in the State of Utah as a court appointed special advocate for the Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Jon has also served in several notable capacities for private and public sector institutions, including the Department of Human Development at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he served as a student development assistant. He was also an engineering aide for the U.S. Navy and previously served as an engineer drafter for the Unidynamic Corp. of St. Louis, MO. Jon has excelled in everything he has set out to accomplish. Despite his physical limitations, he never once relented in his ambition to succeed. Jon has proven that through steadfast dedication and a deep belief in oneself, "if you can dream it, you can do it."

#### TRIBUTE TO BETTE JANE RODRIGUEZ

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 1997*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Bette Jane Rodriguez, who is being recognized by the city of Cudahy on February 13, 1997, as she retired after serving the Treasurer's Office for 33½ year.

Throughout her long and dedicated term, Bette Jane has served as deputy treasurer to several city treasurers. Her leadership while assisting the government of the city of Cudahy to run more effectively and efficiently should be commended.

Ms. Rodriguez has served on the Cudahy Area Business and Professional Women's Club since 1973. She has also served on the Cudahy Democratic Unit by providing assistance on several local and Presidential elections, as well as on the Cudahy Municipal Credit Union and on the Cudahy Historical Society for the last 10 years.

Bette Jane Rodriguez will truly be missed in City Hall, but knowing her as I do, she will only become more active in the community following her retirement. Therefore, it is with great pleasure I join Bette Jane's coworkers, the city of Cudahy, and many friends in honoring her many years of service and contributions to the city of Cudahy.

Best wishes, Bette Jane, and on behalf of the residents of the city of Cudahy, I offer a heartfelt "thank you" for your unselfish work over the years and for a job well done.

#### CONGRESSMAN BILL RICHARDSON: ON TO DIPLOMACY FOR HIS COUNTRY

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, a recent event affecting this House leaves us with mixed emotions. We are losing one of our Members, but the service to which he is going is greatly important to our Nation.

Congressman BILL RICHARDSON has been nominated to be America's next Ambassador to the United Nations. In that role, he will serve in the President's Cabinet and be a principal in the guidance and implementation of our country's foreign policy.

I salute President Clinton for his wise choice of BILL RICHARDSON. We need someone with his firmness and no-nonsense approach to represent our interests at the United Nations.

All of us are familiar with BILL RICHARDSON'S record as a hostage negotiator in troubled world areas. He showed on several occasions that he can identify critical issues and find the means of resolution.

My familiarity with BILL RICHARDSON comes not alone from being aware of his creative diplomatic strategies in North Korea, Iraq, and Sudan. I had the good fortune to serve with him on the Resources Committee and on its National Parks, Forests and Lands Subcommittee, where he was the ranking Democrat.

BILL RICHARDSON, as the President said, in announcing his intention to nominate him, also is one of our Nation's most prominent and proud Hispanic leaders. His example is one that reflects pride to that community and his heritage.

In saluting our colleague as he embarks on a new set of challenges, I take pleasure in sharing with the House the following transition of an article that was published recently in the German newspaper, *Handelsblatt*. Written by diplomatic and political correspondent Viola Herms-Drath, this report makes plain the high hopes America's allies have for the role BILL RICHARDSON will play.

[From the *Handelsblatt*, Dec. 17, 1996]

#### CLINTON'S NEW U.N. AMBASSADOR SEEN AS UNORTHODOX DIPLOMAT

With the appointment of the long-time Congressman from New Mexico, Bill Richardson, as Washington's new U.N. Ambassador, U.S. President Bill Clinton has achieved two successful political moves. First, he has placed a politically correct Hispanic on his team and, second, he has appointed a creative diplomat with style and a great deal of tact. Clinton has no doubts that Richardson will be able to represent U.S. interests and ideals at the U.N. and in the world.

Richardson first came to public notice through his exploits in the political arena, especially because of his spontaneous actions for the release of American citizens being held by totalitarian countries, from North Korea to Bangladesh, Cuba and Iraq. Just a week ago this son of a Mexican mother and an American father was in the Sudan, negotiating an arrangement for the release of two Red Cross pilots and an Australian nurse. Richardson's extraordinary diplomatic mission began by chance when he was participating in Pjongjang in the discussion on nuclear disarmament. At the same time, a U.S. helicopter was shot down over Korea. Richardson took it upon himself to see to the release of the pilots.

In 1993 this cosmopolitan liberal Democrat helped Clinton with negotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and in efforts to achieve as balanced a budget as possible. In opposition to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he opposed the embargo on Havana after the Cubans shot down two unarmed American planes and Clinton approved the step for tactical reasons and extended it to other countries, to the great irritation of his European trading partners.

This Democrat who is also popular with the Republicans now has the task of explaining the U.N. operations to the Senate committee which must confirm his appointment. Although the U.S., as a founding member of the U.N., has always recognized the principles of U.N., now Richardson must continually preserve U.S. prerogatives. The Clinton Administration has always, on the one hand, advocated strengthening the U.N. through reform measures, but on the other hand, has certainly made it clear that for its own economic and security interests, it intends to rely on its own strengths and alliances.

In contrast to the rather aggressive behavior of his predecessor, Madeleine Albright, who has now been elevated to the position of Secretary of State, Richardson has shown himself to be a flexible negotiator, a clever diplomat and a reliable go-between.