

The 3 B's. What are they? I had to worry about bussing. Are the buses running on time?

□ 1645

I had to worry about budgets to make sure that the dollars fell in the right categories and that I stayed within the budget. And then I had to worry about the butts. What are the butts? The butts are every time I had a good idea and every time my parents came into the school with a good idea about what they wanted to do in this school and I went to the centralized administration, I would get the comment back, "That is a good idea, but if we let you do it, everybody else will have to be able to do it."

"But the rules don't allow for that."

"But yet we can't do that."

"But we've never done that before."

When the parents took over that school and created a public school, but a charter public school with parental involvement, the butts went away and we now have a high quality, high performing school in one of the toughest areas in one of our major cities.

We want to minimize what is wasted in education. We want dollars back into the classroom. We want the dollars focused on what really works. And it is really important that we work in a collaborative fashion, that we work in a collaborative fashion with parents, with school boards, with local school boards to ensure that they are given the tools and the control to create the schools that best meet the needs of their kids.

What we are going to be doing, we are going to be continuing this process for the next 12 months. Obviously we have done a lot of work in 1996. We have already done a lot of work in 1997. But before we go out and spend another \$50 billion as Band-Aids on a system that is currently broken, we need to evaluate the current system and put the money into things that work.

There are wonderful success stories out there, there are wonderful environments, there are wonderful schools, and they are all wonderful kids and they are learning. What we need to do is to make sure that we help them and do not continue to hurt them with programs from Washington that do not work.

Why are we experiencing some of the failure today? Too often we have put bureaucrats ahead of kids. When we get done with education reform in this Congress, we are going to put kids ahead of bureaucrats. Too often we have put social engineering ahead of the basics. It is time to focus on reading, writing, and math. It is time to focus on the basics.

We have put money into the bureaucracy, not into the classroom. We need to move the dollars out of the bureaucracy. We need to move the dollars to the local level so that they can get into the classroom.

Before we put 1 million new tutors on the streets, we need to ask the basic

question, Why are kids not learning today? We have at least 14 literacy programs in the Federal Government. Kids are spending 6 to 7 hours a day in school. Why are they not learning today? Do we need to revamp these 14 literacy programs? Do we need to take a look at what is going on in the classroom?

Those are the kinds of questions that over the next 6 to 12 months, the Education and Oversight Subcommittee is going to be looking at. As we develop answers to those kinds of questions, we will be developing, hopefully in collaboration with the President, the proposals that will put kids in front of bureaucrats, it will move dollars into the classroom, and it will move us in education back to focusing on the basics, reading, writing, and math.

Like I said earlier, the wonderful thing about this project is I have seen success stories from one end of the country to the next. It is about common sense, it is about getting back to the basics and it is about doing the right things.

As we work on getting back to that commonsense approach, we can and we will improve education. It is an exciting process and an exciting challenge on which to work.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. OBEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness.

Mr. FOGLIETTA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness.

Mrs. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of the birth of a baby girl.

Mrs. CHENOWETH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of her mother.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and for the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HOYER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of illness in the family.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKAGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FARR of California, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RILEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes each day, today and on February 11.

Mr. PITTS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. LOWEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. BECERRA.

Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Mr. STARK.

Ms. HARMAN.

Ms. SANCHEZ.

Mr. TOWNS.

Ms. NORTON.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RILEY) and to include extraneous material:)

Ms. MOLINARI.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

Mrs. ROUKEMA.

Mr. GILMAN, in two instances.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HOEKSTRA) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mrs. MYRICK.

Mr. STUMP.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia in two instances.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas in two instances.

Mr. KUCINICH in two instances.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. FILNER in two instances.

Mr. BASS.

Mrs. MORELLA in two instances.

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey in two instances.

Mr. FARR of California.

Mrs. KELLY.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mrs. LOWEY.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. MCDERMOTT.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Mr. RIGGS.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts in two instances.

Mr. BARCIA.

Mr. ENGEL.

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut.

Ms. KAPTUR.