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Campaign Briefing

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TODAY: CONFERENCE CALL TODAY
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HEADLINES

- Excerpts from Bush interview with New York Times (Page 2)
- U.S. economy growing at fastest rate in 3 years (Page 2)

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

President Bush with Lamar Alexander, Secretary of Education, announces G.I. Bill opportunity scholarships for students; addresses College Republican Convention; attends reception for New American Schools Development Corporation.

Vice President Quayle attends announcement ceremony of G.I. Bill; attends fund-raising reception for Barry Williamson, candidate for Texas Railroad Commission.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SCHOOL PRAYER "CAST AWAY" Yesterday, the Supreme Court ruled against non-denominational prayer at a public school graduation ceremony. The Supreme Court cited a violation of the First Amendment. Upon learning the Court's decision in *Lee v. Weisman*, President Bush remarked, "The Court has unnecessarily cast away the venerable and proper American tradition of non-sectarian prayer at public celebrations. I continue to believe that this type of prayer should be allowed in public schools." (6/24)

TODAY'S TALKING POINTS

BUSH PLAN REVOLUTIONIZES AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

The GI Bill gave millions of military veterans the helping hand they needed to attend the colleges of their choice. Now President Bush wants to use the same concept to ensure that we will be able to obtain the best education possible for our children.

- America profited from investing in our vets' education. An estimated 18.6 million veterans — those who served during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars — got the education they needed to help themselves and this country succeed. The GI Bill was instrumental in making America what it is today.
- Now the battlefield is changing. We must fight to retain our lead in industrial competitiveness. But America's students lag behind those of other industrialized countries in math and science. We must educate our children better so they can meet the challenges of the new century confidently and successfully.

President Bush's State and Local GI Bill for Children will give our children a big boost in life. With \$1,000 "scholarships" for

School Choice for America

THE "G.I. BILL FOR CHILDREN" PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY

President Bush today unveiled an ambitious new program to provide \$500 million in new educational grants for low- and middle-income American families.

The program, called the "G.I. Bill for Children," will allow families to spend this money at any school of their choice, including private and parochial schools.

"Parents, not bureaucrats, know what's best for their kids," said Bush.

Choice "can do nothing but make things better," said Bush, who likened the concept to the G.I. Bill that helped millions of veterans attend colleges of their choice.

"These dollars to spend at the schools of their choice will become the muscle that parents need to create the best schools for their kids," the President said.

By no longer shielding public schools from competition, the family scholarships will create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world -- whether they are public, private or religious. (6/25)

all school-aged kids in low- and medium-income families, parents will get the help necessary to raise children better.

- The State and Local GI Bill will begin as a four-year demonstration program for 500,000 children. Eventually it will affect 65 percent of all kids in elementary and secondary schools, enabling them to attend schools of their parent's choice — public, private or religious.
- Families at or below the median income level of participating school districts will be given a \$1,000 a year scholarship to be used at the school of their choice. Parents can use half of the thousand dollars for special academic programs offered by the school on weekends or during the summer.

States and localities that want their children to succeed will want to apply to the GI Bill for Children program. It is too great an opportunity for them to pass up.

- Any state or locality can apply to participate. They must ensure that parents have a variety of choices in schools and allow participation of all lawfully operating schools, regardless of whether they are public, private or religious.
- Eligibility will be based on the number of available educational choices, including those for non-participants, the proportion of participating children from low-income families, and a school district's financial support for the project.

BOND CHALLENGES PEROT TO PROVE CHARGES

During Ross Perot's appearance on Larry King Live Wednesday night, Rich Bond, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, called in and challenged Perot to produce "one shred of evidence" to prove his charge that a "GOP Dirty Tricks Committee" created and planted the news stories about Perot's investigations into Mr. Bush and his family and the private life of a Pentagon official.

Perot's allegations "are totally wild and reckless charges that he can't substantiate. And like so much of what Ross Perot talks about, this is a figment of his imagination," Bond said during an interview Thursday on the NBC Today Show.

Bond added, "It is total fantasy and total fiction. He would have America believe that we control the Washington Post, or [the NBC Today Show], or the New York Times, or the L.A. Times to print stuff that isn't true. That's not true. And it just shows how fundamentally he doesn't get it out there, he doesn't have a clue."

"He can't prove one bit of it," Bond said. "And I challenge him again. Let's put up or shut up. Let's produce the proof. He can't do it." (Larry King Live, 6/24, NBC Today Show, 6/25)

ECONOMY GROWING AT FASTEST RATES IN THREE YEARS

The Commerce Department reported this morning that the U.S. economy grew 2.7 percent in the first quarter of 1992. The government called this increase "the best performance in three years." Also reported, after-tax profits of American corporations increased 11.3 percent in the first quarter. This is the biggest increase in almost five years. (AP, 6/25)

LABOR DEPARTMENT BLASTS CONGRESS FOR "FIDDLING"

Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin Tuesday blasted Congress for "fiddling" while people have families to feed. This statement came out of concern for the proposed extension of unemployment benefits. "This is political posturing at its worst," Martin said. "The President has a proposal before Congress that can be passed in 5 minutes. I charge Congress to act...to get these benefits to America's working men and women. They earned them. They deserve them. They need them," she added. (6/24)

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION

WHEN: TODAY, 2:30pm EDT

SPEAKERS: FRED MALEK, BUSH/QUAYLE '92 CAMPAIGN MANAGER, AND MICHAEL BOSKIN, CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS

SUBJECT: CLINTON'S ECONOMIC PLAN

TO ACCESS: DIAL 1-800-452-2080, PIN NUMBER 1992, NO LATER THAN 2:25pm EDT

EXCERPTS FROM BUSH INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES

Time to End Divided Government: "Give the people a Republican President and control of both houses of Congress. You've tried it with the Democrats, both houses; that was abysmal failure. You've tried it partially with a Republican President, and when that happened, things moved pretty well.... So I will say to the people this fall, 'Let's try something that hasn't been tried in the last 35 years. Let's try the Republican President whose values, I believe, are in keeping with the values of the American people.'"

Relations with Congress: "I wasn't elected to do it the way the liberal Democrats that control Congress want, and so I've had to stand up to them."

Balancing the Budget: "We've got a program before the Congress right now, and it leans heavily on controlling the growth of mandatory spending programs.... And I regret to see an editorial in The New York Times today saying that one candidate, Bill Clinton, has put some detail out there and we have not, because that is not factual."

Family Values: "We've gotten away from our fundamental strengths, which are traditional family values.... And people know that it's gone too far. People know that this is bad for the family.... When you see some of the filth on television, you ought to speak out about it."

Victories in Congress: "We got the Clean Air Bill done pretty quick when we first got here, the child-care legislation. We had to fight like the devil to do it against an old-thinking Congress, but we got it done."

Civil Rights: "I take pride in the civil rights bill. I think it's forward-looking. I think it is against quotas, and I think it is against discrimination in the work place."

The Mood of America: "It is the fact that there's a negative perception out there, driven largely by the economy.... But it's more than that. It is also this feeling against crime. It's the feeling of the decay and decline of the American family."

Welfare Reform: "We ought to find out what hasn't worked and not do it. We ought to reform the welfare system so we do everything we can to get families to stay together."

The November Election: "In the final analysis, people are going to say, who do you want sitting at that desk? Who has the temperament? Who has the experience? Who do we trust? And that's why I'm going to win this election; you watch." (New York Times, 6/25)

Can America Afford Clintonomics?**DEMOCRAT'S BUDGET FLIP
IS AN ECONOMIC FLOP**

Bill Clinton's fiscal-conservative masquerade is over. Off with the tax-cutter's cloak he wore for the primary season. Now, in his newly revised economic plan, the real Clinton stands as just another liberal "big spender/big taxer" Democrat.

Campaigning for New Hampshire's early primary, Clinton promised a tax cut for middle-income taxpayers. The day after he locked up the Democrat nomination, he called for a "massive tax increase." This weekend, he revealed the price American taxpayers would have to pay for a Clinton presidency — a tax increase of \$150 billion, \$220 billion in more spending, and no chance of eliminating federal budget deficits.

Clinton's proposed tax policies would sock it to middle-income taxpayers who work for small businesses because they would force owners to pay for health care, retraining and income tax increases. That would cost money — and jobs.

Gone now is Clinton's talk of balancing the federal budget by the end of his first term. He has scaled back that prediction by half. Clinton has said his "tax and spend" economic plan will be the keystone of his campaign. It also could be the gravestone of his candidacy. (6/25)

BILL, IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED In Bill Clinton's revised economic plan, he calls for a new highway bill as one of his four immediate steps to "jumpstart the nation's economic growth right away." In December, 1991, President Bush signed into law the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. "This act will pump \$11 billion into the economy immediately - supporting more than 600,000 jobs in Fiscal 1992," the President said. "This bill also means investment in America's economic future - for an efficient transportation system is necessary for a productive and efficient economy." (6/24)

PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN IN THE BLACK The FEC announced yesterday the May reports from the Bush/Quayle and Bill Clinton campaigns. Clinton's debts ballooned from 2.5 million in April to 3.93 million in May; whereas, the Bush/Quayle campaign spent 2.9 million in May and finished with 8.18 million in cash

CONGRESS STALLS ON RAIL STRIKE It appears Congress is moving to impose legislation that would restore rail service before the weekend. Instead of a settlement, however, Congress is asking for a cooling-off period for a still to be determined period of time. This action comes on the heels of a White House plea to Congress yesterday to "step in quickly...[to avoid] jeopardizing the economy's recovery." (AP 6/25)

CLINTON, THE BIG SPENDER Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) spoke out yesterday in response to Bill Clinton's revised economic plan. Gramm stated, Clinton's proposed plan combined with automatic growth in the budget, "would result in the largest dollar increase in federal spending in American history." Gramm also alluded that tax increases imposed on the wealthiest Americans and corporations would actually burden small businesses the most. (AP, 6/24)

STATEWATCH

DISCONTENT FROM PEROT VOLUNTEERS Discontent has surfaced on Perot's grassroots level and seems to be spreading across the country. State and local newspapers around the country are reporting complaints from volunteers at the Perot campaign. In Denver, CO and Burkittsville, MD, two Perot workers expressed they are "ticked off" and are taking "another look" at the campaign that has been "hijacked by the Dallas Political Professionals." (LA Times, Baltimore Sun, 6/24)

EDITORIALS

GOD'S EXISTENCE PART OF OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE "How ironic. For the first time in many years, former Soviet citizens can now pray in public freely, but American graduates can't....Who is behind the anti-God movement anyway?...It's none other than the American Civil Liberties Union, whose agenda is to expunge any mention of the G-word from American history and American life. God is not politically correct, in the ACLU view, and anyone who publicly calls upon him must be silenced....To ban the utterance of God from any forum is to deny a basic freedom and a valued practice....Public acknowledgement of God's existence is part of our culture and our heritage, and no one ever has been or should be required to participate. Banning God from public life is the rod from which the ACLU crowd intends to hang its own version of the Iron Curtain across America." Rebecca Hagelin (USA Today, 6/25)

For draft new releases, new conference statements, letters to the editor, on-eds, and talking points, please call the State Press Operations Desk