

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION
HALL OF THE STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

IN RE: 1996 ANNUAL MEETING :
PLENARY SESSION :
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

DATE : Sunday, July 14, 1996

TIME : 12:14 p.m.

CLIENT : NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS : Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

CELEBRATED AT : El Conquistador Hotel
Salons 4 and 5, Grand Caribbean Ballroom
Fajardo, Puerto Rico

PRESENT WERE:

Governor Tommy G. Thompson,
Wisconsin, Chairman

Governor Bob Miller,
Nevada, Vice Chairman

Governor William F. Weld,
Massachusetts

Governor David M. Beasley
South Carolina

Governor George Allen
Virginia

Governor Pedro Rosselló
Puerto Rico

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COPY

1
2 Governor Howard Dean, MD.
Vermont

3 Governor Don Sundquist,
4 Tennessee

5 Governor Kirk Fordice,
Mississippi

6 Governor John Engler,
Michigan

7 Governor Bill Graves,
8 Kansas

9 Governor Roy Romer,
Colorado

10 Governor Frank Keating,
Oklahoma

11 Governor Roy L. Schneider, MD.
12 Virgin Island

13 Governor Carl Gutierrez,
Guam

14 Governor Tony Knowles,
Alaska

15 Governor Gary E. Johnson
16 New Mexico

17 Governor Michael O. Leavitt,
Utah

18 Governor Gaston Carper, Jr.,
West Virginia

19 Governor Terry E. Branstad,
Iowa

20 Governor Angus S. King, Jr.,
21 Maine

22 Governor Jim Edgar,
Illinois

23 Governor George V. Voinovich,
Ohio

24 Governor Paul E. Patton,
25 Kentucky

1 Governor Lincoln Almond,
2 Rhode Island

3 GUESTS:

4 Mrs. Regina Blakely, Correspondent, CBS News

5 Mr. Ray Suarez, Host, The Talk of the Nation, National
Public Radio

6 Mr. Richard Bennedetto, USA Today

7 OTHER APPEARING:

8 Mr. Ray Sheppach
9 -----

10 MR. CHAIRMAN:

11 Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to call to ord r the
12 88th National Governors' Association Meeting, which is going
13 to be held here in Puerto Rico.

14 I would like to welcome all of you to our 88th
15 Convention, and I would like to thank all the distinguish d
16 guests and all of you to participate and appreciate so much
17 that you came here for this weekend and for Monday and
18 Tuesday. I want to specially thank Governor and Mrs.
19 Rosselló for the outstanding job they've done for to make us
20 a very special meeting, the one that's, we've been very
21 welcome that, and that we appreciate so much the hospitality.
22 I, going to defer for a while of welcoming from Governor
23 Pedro Ross lló, I just was with him and we w nt down to s
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25

1
2 statehooders and he is down there speaking, and I left to come
3 back and ensure you there's a large enthusiastic crowd there
4 awaiting to see him, so he'll be while before he get's back,
5 and a couple other Governors are still with him.

6 I'd like to mention today there were also pleased very
7 much as they have a distinguished member of the Japanese House
8 of Counselors, Mr. Kimataka Kuze, and I would appreciate we
9 would give him a big warm welcome from Japan. (applauses)
10

11 He's been with us in several other occasions and we're
12 always very pleased to have our Comadachi from Japan with us.

13 I would also now we call to order the 1996 annual meeting
14 of the National Governors' Association. May I please have a
15 motion for adopting the rules of procedures of this morning,
16 moved by Governor Fordice, seconded by Governor Graves, and in
17 any discussion all those in favor of that signify by saying I.
18 GOVERNORS:

19 I.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN:

21 I have it, motion is carried. The nominating Committee
22 for the 1996-97 NGA Executive Committee, will be Governor Tony
23 Knowles from Alaska, who will become the Chair, Governor Tom
24 Carper from Delaware, Governor Evan Bayh from Indiana,
25

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2 Governor Terry Branstad of Iowa and Governor David Beasley of
3 South Carolina, and part of the rules require that any
4 Governor who desires to submit a policy or resolution for
5 adoption at this meeting, will need a three fourth vote to
6 sustained the rule. Please submit any of your proposal at that
7 are going to require, in sustained to the rules to Jim Martin
8 of the NGA Staff, by 5:00 PM tomorrow evening, Monday.
9

10 Jim, where are you? Jim Martin is the gentleman right
11 here, so everybody will recognize him, if you want to come in
12 with a resolution or amendment, you have to have three
13 quarters vote that will take up in the plenary session on
14 Tuesday morning.

15 Other matters accords under our rules, require two
16 thirds, two thirds of the Governors in attendance voting.
17 There are essentially three mayor things of this meeting we're
18 going to be hearing and discussing various sessions as well as
19 informally through the meeting.
20

21 The first one that is very important to all of us as
22 Governors, is the follow-up to the National Education Summit.
23 In March of this year, forty-one governors along with forty-
24 eight business leaders convened the National Education Summit
25 in Palisades, New York, and during that historic meeting,

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2 governors and business leaders committed to work together to
3 improve our Nation's Education System through the development
4 and implementation of high quality standards and assessments
5 into the use of technology. Later on the meeting, we're going
6 to be discussing and adopting policy that is talking about
7 creating an organization, more apply referred to as the
8 Educational entity to assist us in this difficult but
9 important work.
10

11 I would like to thank Governors Roy Romer, Bob Miller,
12 and Jim Hunt and Terry Brandstad and John Engler for assisting
13 me and calling the National Education Summit, which I think
14 was extremely successful, and those five Governors, along with
15 myself planned, along with the business community, they worked
16 very hard and I appreciate very much all of their hard work
17 for making that Educational Summit successful.
18

19 The second big item that we'll be discussing beyond
20 education, is because we're convening our meeting in Puerto
21 Rico, we thought it was very appropriate in time to focus on
22 Latin America and Caribbean trade. While many of us look to
23 Europe and Asia, our biggest trading partners are here in the
24 Americas and Canada, and not only for the present, the
25 opportunities for the future are unlimited and the opportunity

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2 to expand that for states, is very, very important.
3 Projections of future economic growth are all very optimistic
4 for our Western Hemisphere, and we're going to be developing
5 strategies as well as ways to expand those kinds, the
6 Caribbean and Latin American trade in the coming days, and
7 specially tomorrow afternoon when we have a host of excellent
8 speakers.
9

10 And finally, on Tuesday we're going to be focusing on
11 ideas that work, and every state capital throughout this year,
12 governors that have problems from expanding health care, the
13 moving people from welfare to work, protecting the safety of
14 our citizens, governors are always asking their staff, what do
15 others states do? To answer that question, we're going to be
16 releasing a series of seven publications that reflect the
17 ideas that work, the best ideas across America, across America
18 done by the laboratories of democracy and those of course are
19 the states that you are the chair of by being the governor.
20

21 Each of the governors whose is invited to submit up to
22 two ideas, in each of the seven topic areas, this in the
23 environment, crime and public safety, education reform,
24 infrastructure, job creation, self sufficiency and tax reform.
25

Now, I think you're going to be very pleased with the

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2 work that was done by governors and by the staff of NGA
3 compiling all of the best ideas. This books illustrate the
4 dynamic and the progressive nature of state government. I have
5 always believed that the states like you, at a laboratory of
6 democracy, and that is what I have emphasized during my term
7 as NGA Chairman. The ideas that work serious are the cap zone
8 of that year long effort. We will be discussing these reports
9 in great detail during the final plenary session on Tuesday.
10 I look forward to our discussion during the business sessions,
11 and the visiting with you what you do in the special events.
12 I encourage you to ask hard questions and share your
13 experiences in crafting new approaches to old problems. I urge
14 you to express your opinions about issues that are raised and
15 to join into discussion. I certainly hope that you find that
16 this meeting in Puerto Rico is going to be an interesting one,
17 entertaining, of one that you're going to come, come away from
18 with good ideas to go back to your state and hopefully
19 implement.
20

21 And now I'd like to go to the next door to our business,
22 and that is the changing role of the media in the elections,
23 and one of the most constantly debated issues these days is
24 the way the media and its reporting of the election may be
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1
2 changing the way these elections are going to be held in the
3 accountability for those elections. According to the non-
4 profit center for media in public affairs, the average
5 candidate should bide on the three major note network this
6 year is seven seconds, that's down from eight seconds in 1992,
7 nine seconds in 1988, and forty- two seconds in 1968. It makes
8 us wonder, as politician and governors, where is Walter
9 Krontight* when we need him.
10

11 In the first three months of this year, the network news
12 cast give GOP candidates a combined total of one hour fifty-
13 one minutes or air time versus ten hours forty-seven minutes
14 to the journalists covering them. Some people may think that
15 is a fair trade off. The popular conception is that too much
16 of what we see on the air waves is commentaries and not hard
17 news. To just extend the barrier themselves, in 1993, a two
18 months study of the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times and
19 the Washington Post, farthered just over half of the page one
20 story for straight news. Forty percent were analytical of
21 interpretive, five percent were features and five percent were
22 special projects. The line between a journalist and a
23 commentator, an entertainer and political strategist, are
24 already blurry and all indications are that they will get
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1
2 fuzzier still. So, where does this leave us for campaign 96',
3 how much of what we see on the air and read on our daily
4 papers really reflects who the candidates are and what they
5 stand for, and how does this affect the way the borders react.

6
7 Here they shed, laid on any subjects, and I hope it is a
8 strong bright light a three exceptionally fine outstanding
9 captiousness who deal with this issues each and every day.
10 Joining us this afternoon are Regina Blakely, CBS News
11 correspondent, Ray Suarez, Host of The Talk of the Nation,
12 bearing on the National Public Radio and Richard Benedetto
13 with USA Today.

14 Regina Blakely, curtly as the CBS White House and Capitol
15 Hall correspondent for two-hundred CBS affiliates across the
16 country. She contributes to CBS Weekend, CBS This Morning and
17 to the CBS After the Minute Broadcast. Prior to her
18 Washington assignment, she worked for the CBS Evening News an
19 Forty-Eight Hours. She won her first Emmy for her work on
20 Forty-Eight Hours. She is also an outstanding lawyer and is
21 practice in commercial and securities laws. So, why don't we
22 start out with Regina, and following Regina will be Journalist
23 Ray Suarez, who hosts National Public Radio's Nationwide Call,
24 a news program, Talk of the Nation, he joined NPR after more
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2 than seven years as a reporter with NBC affiliates WMAQ TV in
3 Chicago. Ray has been a Los Angeles correspondent for CNN,
4 worked for ABC Radio Network, CBS Radio and with various
5 american and british news areas for services. He received the
6 1993-94 Dupont Columbia University over Bataan Award for NBR's
7 coverage of the South African election, and in 1994-95, the
8 Changing of the Guards, the republican revolution.
9

10 Our final panelist is Richard Benedetto, a national
11 political correspondent for USA Today and we are very happy
12 he's here because he covers the National Governors
13 Organization very extensively and we appreciate that very much
14 Richard. Mr. Benedetto deserves a special thanks for
15 agreeing to fill in at the last minute for Walter Shapiro, for
16 because the travel problems because of the reason back surgery
17 cannot be with us today. I thought we'd open up today with
18 Regina Blakely, Regina, thank you so very much.
19

20 MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

21 Thank you very much Governor Thompson. Well, the three
22 of us, when we walked in here today said that we sort of felt
23 like we were at the Senate hearings on something, only as we
24 were sitting here in this particular format, but we are ready
25 and willing, and actually would welcome your comments as to

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2 what you feel, you see and what you don't see with regards to
3 your campaign coverage. I can asses from a somewhat different
4 perspective and that I have not only covered a governor, I am
5 originally from the state of Arkansas, could then went on to
6 become a president, by I also have not only worked on the
7 network newscast, but also on the affiliate newscast, which
8 because you all are governors, sometimes that is more
9 important to you than what you may see on a network news. So,
10 for example, if you would have turned on the CBS Evening News
11 with Dan Radder and turn out to see what happened at the White
12 House, you would see...if you turn on your local TV facilities
13 in whatever markets you may be in, you would see me at the
14 White House on Capital Hill. I say that because as I said, I
15 can access from a perspective that I see, and discussing some
16 criticisms that I'd like to discuss with you, I think you will
17 see that whereas you may see the coverage Governor Thompson
18 talked about the seven and six seconds sound bites, in fact,
19 from your perspective in your local market could in fact be
20 more than that.
21
22

23 Many of you may think that we sat in our wonderful grand
24 dome of broadcast journalism or printsalisms or radio
25 broadcast, I think they were all so wonderfully perfect that

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2 we don't have any other way to improve, I would love to think
3 that was the case since access is not. We debate issues
4 constantly on how we can improve both at the network in the
5 local levels on our political coverage to make it more
6 meaningful not only the political coverage, but in fact the
7 issue oriented coverage, and to in fact expand on the details
8 of that coverage. I would be instinct to know because I was
9 speaking with one of the governors who will remain unnamed, as
10 to how many of you actually watch for to put the network to
11 use aside if you don't mind taking part in a full, how many of
12 you actually watch your local news casts for your local
13 coverage or your national coverage. A few, very hesitantly
14 there you raise your hand, but it's interesting to know that
15 we like to complaint about those things of which we know very
16 little, and so, therefor I'd like to explain to you some of
17 the criticisms and try to take some of the heat for some of
18 those criticisms, but also give you some perspectives.

19
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21 I have spoke with some of my colleagues about what I
22 should say to you, and one of them said: "Please tell them
23 don't criticize us for what we do, but for what we fail to
24 do". Because it is those failures that we can point to you
25 that we are trying to encounter, one would be patch journalism

in focusing on the complex, do we, guilty is charged.

There is patch journalism, we saw it in the New Hampshire primaries, one issue would become as huge as you because you would have one reporter asking a question and following the candidate, whoever he might have been at the time, to ask the same question over and over and over again. Did we focus on the complex? Yes. What would I like to see to make that better? More access to the campaign, more access to the candidate, more opportunity to follow-up on stories to where they are not one day stories, through where you move from the complex of the day to the next complex of the day. I want to keep my comments short so we have time for questions later. The second criticism that I hear from, in particular press secretaries, "you failed to cover our message, you failed to cover our issue" joking is hard at times. "You're too cynical", that, I have to disagree with. I cannot speak from, on the personal level from what some of my colleagues feel or don't feel, but I do feel as if I can say we are sceptical not cynical, we will refuse to take things at faith value, and I believe you would want it that way.

The problem, and I've seen it in some of my coverages at the White House is that an administration either wants or is

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2 forced to begin a story, but then works to stand in the way of
3 its development, and so therefor, that is proceeded as either
4 stone walling or lime. You have to look at it from our
5 perspective, if you were studying in our condition, what would
6 you think? Do we cover the issues, television is somewhat
7 different than my account of parterre with radio and
8 television, because, in Governor Thompson in his opening
9 remark said: Education, Welfare Reform, the Economy, those
10 are thing that are difficult to put on tv, we have to fill the
11 black hole, we can't seek narration up there with nothing to
12 cover it. So, from those perspectives, those types of stories
13 are very difficult to cover, we are very sad about saying it's
14 not a tv story, we're working on it.

16 As far as the message, you have to let us know what it
17 is, and you know what? If you change it, we're going to report
18 it. And that's what I have to say about the message, I know
19 sooner or though, right now, is somewhat concerned over the
20 fact that the National Press continues to harp on the fact
21 that it does not speak before the NAACP, but the reason it
22 keeps coming up is because when he's asked about it there's a
23 whole other answers to give.

25 The Clinton administration is concerned about the fact

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2 that over the past week and a half it can talk about school
3 uniforms, truancy and crumbling schools, and when we ask the
4 question as if nothing bet election of political posturing,
5 the answer we receive from the administration is: " if you
6 want to report it that way, report it that way". Give me a
7 reason not to report it that way.
8

9 Last way, so I can let everyone else talk, there is a
10 sense that there is less coverage in '96 than in '92. Quickly
11 let me tell you that, from an affiliate point of view, there's
12 actually more, in more local markets there are many affiliates
13 who are now taking over network news time, there are many
14 affiliates who are now given the opportunity to not run the
15 CBS Morning News which run it in only in partial segments,
16 until that time with their local news, that means you, your
17 administration, your issues.
18

19 So, there actually, from my perspective, I do more
20 stories, I do more political stories, we do more live stories
21 and there are more outlets for those stories then there have
22 ever been before.

23 As a closing thought, so that I can move forward, news in
24 this CNA is because of technology, whether you're taking
25 advantage of it or not, your stories are no longer one day

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2 stories. Because of technology, because of satellite
3 technology, because of live shot technology, because you can
4 sit on the governor's mansion and talk about issues that are
5 important to you with your local anchors, and never have to
6 get into that city, means they are more than one day issues.
7

8 The whistle stop campaign and the time as slides by now
9 turn into three days stories, that's because of technology,
10 and as the local market started it making it that way. So, let
11 me leave you with those thoughts, I hope you have some
12 questions, specially from the technological point of view on
13 how the local markets are standing and how in fact those
14 Governor Thompson seven seconds sound bites can actually be
15 turned into longer stories from your perspective in another
16 arena that no longer is at the network news, for example, if
17 you come to Washington to talk to the President about Water
18 issues, Governor Keating about the horrible tragedy in
19 Oklahoma City, Governor Allen about flooding along the
20 coastline, those particular sound bites can be send back to
21 your local station whether you make it into the New York Times
22 and the CBS Evening News at all. So, with that I'll close and
23 let my other colleagues speak.
24

25 Thank you.

MR. RAY SUAREZ:

It occurs to me that many of you might not be familiar with my program at first hearing my name or the name of the program, but rest of sure I am on in virtually all of your states as I look around the table, many of you had at one time or another graciously granted an interview and if now that you're putting a face to the name, you find you're disappointed with the match, I apologize. Radio helps make stars that live in the imaginations of the people who are listening, I know I'm taller and handsomer in the imagination of many of my listeners. We are entering this election season in a very contradictory situation, the political leadership often feels that the coverage they get is bias to willing to portrait conflict and not willing enough to engage in anything but superficial coverage of the issue. Our readers, viewers and listeners are also dissatisfied, unhappy with the product that they're getting, They think we should be giving them more, and they say that they are not sufficiently informed in many cases when they walk into the booth to punch a whole or pull a lever in a voting machine, and they blame us for that as well, but when we respond and produce longer form programs that go into the greater depth, when newspaper print multipart

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2 series that may cover a week and give many, many column inches
3 to a story, the readership goes down across the week when we
4 put on an hour instead of a few minutes on a story, certainly
5 in television it draws tremendously low ratings when compared
6 with ER or re-runs of the Cosby Show, so we are faced as the
7 business with the contradictory impulses of trying to serve a
8 public that wants us to do what it tells us it would like to
9 see and what it seems to really want. When you tell the public
10 opinion poster that you'd like more in-depth coverage, and then
11 the broadcaster puts on that in-depth coverage and is punished
12 for doing so with some of the lowest week night ratings he's
13 had in the year, it's a contrary lesson and one that he's not
14 likely to repeat any time soon.

15
16 But we also create some of our own problems. Wednesday
17 morning, I did something I very rarely do and turned on one of
18 the network morning shows, and on it, I was treated to a very,
19 very lengthily discussion of the fact that Collin Powell had
20 announced that he was going to vote for Bob Dole. Excuse me,
21 stop the presses, it was unbelievable, three highly paid, well
22 known American news analysts in a three way split screen
23 dissecting to the point where you are now getting down to
24 splitting the atom, a decision which has only marginal
25

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2 impassing interest, because I think Collin Powell is declared
3 that he was a republican, that he liked Bob Dole, and why
4 should the fact that he was announcing that he was going to in
5 fact vote for the republican nominee had been a mayor story on
6 the Today Show, it went beyond the boundaries of triviality
7 into an almost thrill of flavor this conversation, but that
8 did not stop it from happening.
9

10 Robert Dole also on the Today Show, made some remarks
11 about the relatividictive power of tobacco, who see ever
12 cuplices to before he makes up his mind, and then for days,
13 the news business spun itself so frantically it was going to
14 drill itself into a hole in the ground, and what was
15 interesting was that much more attention was being paid to the
16 stile of form of sending of Dole's remarks than the contents.
17 We weren't talking, my colleagues about what he said, and what
18 was in what he said, but the way that he said it, and this is
19 a very disturbing trend in what is passing for political
20 analysis and coverage.
21

22 To give you a contrary example that I think might serve
23 us all a little better, when President Clinton on his Saturday
24 radio address embraced Governor Thompson's welfare reform, the
25 ripples were heard from coast to coast, not because of what's

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2 in Governor Thompson welfare reform, but because of the fact
3 that the President embraced it, and this was dissected and
4 analyzed for its political contents for pre-buddle flavor of
5 what the Clinton campaign was doing, and day after day after
6 day, all the conversation was about why he did that and what
7 he hoped to gain by supporting a republican program and so on,
8 talk of the nation, instead spent an hour talking about its
9 back, what's in Wisconsin Welfare Reform, and I think the
10 public was a little better served by that fact, if you'll
11 excuse me for tooting my own horn for just a second, but I
12 think that might have been a more useful way of talking about
13 Welfare Reform instead of trying to figure out what President
14 Clinton was trying to accomplish by endorsing Governor
15 Thompson's plan twenty four hours before Bob Dole did and get
16 a one new cycle jump on him and all that, we should talk
17 instead about what people on Welfare do in Wisconsin and how
18 they live when they are entering that system.
19

20
21 Inside Washington, which is now my home, a larger and
22 larger number of reporters are involved in a fancy game of
23 musical chairs, whereas you turn on various networks and the
24 number of them is exploding, a UPN, WB, CNN, the three old
25 majors, and on and on and on, it's the same bunch of people

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2 now sitting with a different colored background and different
3 colored company chairs, saying pretty much the same thing to
4 each other throughout Sunday Morning.

5 It's an incredible thing and it is I think contributing
6 to the citicizism with which the listeners, viewers and
7 readers are now looking at our business. There's a widening
8 hasten between the people in the press, many of the people who
9 listen to us and we thus are convinced that we are not aware
10 of the challenges in their lives and do not understand the way
11 their lives work in their hometown and in their jobs and in
12 their mortgage payments and real estate taxes and all the
13 other hurtles they have to jump to make it from New Years day
14 to New Years Eve. It was into that vacuum that Rosalyn Boe
15 and Oliver North and Gordon Litty and Mario Cuomo and Jim
16 Hightower and on and on and on, is into that vacuum that
17 widening hasten that the people feel that exist between
18 themselves and the news business, that this other form of
19 information has moved, and we made our own bed, and we guess
20 we are now playing in it.
21
22

23 Is it a treat for me because I've been covering governors
24 for a long time and I've never had a chance to really speak to
25 them before. But, as the journalist who discovered critical

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2 campaign for the past twenty five years starting with mayors
3 and city counsellors in my hometown of Utica, New York,
4 through the state legislature that will be celebrated in New
5 York today, through to Washington, and I've covered every
6 presidential campaign since 1980, I've watched the process
7 change quite a bit, and it's a serious journalist to consider
8 himself somewhat on the scaler of the business too, I'm
9 concerned about the changes that I've seen, and I'm concerned
10 about the effects we might be having on a public that is
11 increasingly skeptical of political figures and increasingly
12 skeptical of their government and increasingly cynical about
13 the whole process.
14

15 And I wonder what role we media play in that cynicism,
16 play in that cynicism, we don't ask ourselves very often as
17 journalists how we fit into this whole scheme of democratic
18 government, what is our law, what should we be doing, how
19 should we be presenting, is it our role to make the system
20 work as I was taught, better, make the system work better, or
21 is it our job to tear the system down? And often I get the
22 impression that a lot of people who are in our business today
23 think that the first role of a newspaper reporter or a
24 television reporter or a radio reporter covering the political
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2 campaign is to show the public what a bunch of jerks these
3 people are who are going through this job.

4 The campaigns sometime that I see day to day and the
5 campaigns that I read about or watch on TV are two different
6 things. New Hampshire primaries was a good example this year.
7 I was traveling around New Hampshire and listening to
8 candidates speak, and I heard them talking about issues, I
9 heard them talking about budgets and I heard them talking
10 about taxes and I heard them talking about welfare, and I
11 heard them talking about what they would do to reform the
12 Medicaid System and so fourth, in tread, but yet much of the
13 reporting of this coming national reporting that was coming
14 out of New Hampshire was the mudest flying in New Hampshire
15 today, and the mud that they were talking about had to do with
16 some of the TV adds I think they were airing, and I often used
17 to think of mud being when you make personal attacks on the
18 characters of the person that's running against, not
19 necessarily criticizing what they are saying or how they stand
20 on an issue.
21

22
23 Now we come to call all of that rather than adversary,
24 advertize, let me call it negative advertizing, so we give the
25 public the impression that there's an awful lot of conflict

going on, so we sit there and watch a speech and the candidate talked about the issues we served our board bias, and then all of a sudden the candidates attacks his opponent and you see the pen starter to write and the pencil starter to go, so that we often find that the conflict makes the news more than the actual issues for the public is impressed, no, they aren't talking of issues, and of course, the Marco Foundation that through the... sent off a million public affairs did a study about the New Hampshire primary and they found that the media was far worn, they get it into the candidate in the television coverage. I'm concerned about that, how do we get over that, how do we go to an event, happen to be in the event in Cleveland, a couple of weeks ago the governor that you do that, that was the Bob Dole attended, it was the Shawnee and Independence Day, and judging from the coverage I saw on the local papers, they said Bob Dole came to play in this period of Slavinian Independence Day, he said that basically the same thing he said to the people of the Post American Community in March, and, no real story, oh yes, it was a pretty good story, I thought it talked about, it came at the time we were looking to American Independence Day, a week before that, and there's a story about a group of people who are proud of being

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2 americans, and who were celebrating their heritage, but non
3 less proud of being americans, and it was a very good event,
4 they had one of their own sons, who was the governor of the
5 state, Governor Voinovich, they had the Bishop there who is a
6 slavinian american, Bishop Piveck, they had the Pastor from
7 Slavania there who was talking about what a wonderful event
8 this was, because, and I asked him: "what do you think of this
9 event"?.. and he says: "this is a wonderful event, it's
10 so...and we were searching for a word, he says: "it's so
11 american". And that's the kind of story nobody reports.

13 Reporters go to these events and they don't report, we
14 need more balance, we have to tell people not only what the
15 candidates said, what they might have said long, maybe might
16 have contradict himself, but also, candidates often do
17 something right, an we don't want to say it at all because
18 we're afraid that if we do that then somebody will say: "well,
19 you're a softy, or you're in somebody's pocket".

21 We need to provide a strong balance, we need to provide,
22 go in there with the reporters, the reporters actually is
23 supposed to go in there as a substitute for the public who
24 doesn't go at all of these events. Most people do not see
25 candidates in person in a big election like the state wide

1
2 election that you are involved in, and certainly, in a
3 national election, presented your people who see the candidate
4 make a speech from beginning to end in person is very, very,
5 very small, therefore, they depend upon the media. Key stand
6 will them that if that's what they want, and if they have the
7 energy and the time to tune it in, but if they're going to the
8 mass media, they're doing a very, very small press part of
9 what the real story might be, therefore, come to the panacea,
10 as the representative of the people to give them the accurate
11 picture we can, often we don't do that as well as we should.
12 We are overly concerned with the process, we tell right
13 stories about who hired whom as a poster, who's the
14 strategist, who's in with the strategy, who's out with the
15 strategy, yes, but your citizen doesn't care about that and I
16 believe it has no bearing that I'm, then, and they probably
17 don't read those stories anyway, now, they're not even
18 probably reading a lot of the stories as I found out in
19 talking to a lot of people in Ohio about Whitewater, or about
20 the FBI file.
21

22
23 They have a general impression since we cover so many
24 scandals and we're giving the public this impression that
25 every politician must be doing something wrong, that they turn

1
2 off on the scandal stories because they are, they're all doing
3 it, what do I care, you know, and they're not even shock by it
4 any more. We shouldn't look the other way when there's
5 scandal, but at the other hand, we shouldn't make everything
6 sound like a scandal because then you get a nomina effect to
7 public, and that's what's going on right now, people wonder,
8 well why is this person threatened to being hurt by all these
9 stories about the FBI files, by all these stories about the
10 Whitewater; because the public is numbed to that stuff, I
11 think that they've made some judgements that are the basis of
12 what kind of a job you're doing as president, and they've made
13 some other judgements about what all politicians are going to
14 do that, whether it's President Clinton or whether it's Bob
15 Dole, and they're, they're all going to do it.

17 So we have a lot of criticism from the public that need
18 to to addressed. I'll stop there and I'll be looking forward
19 to your questions.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN:

21 First let's give these panelists a big grant of
22 applause, thank you very much.

24 APPLAUSES BY PRESENTS

25 MR. CHAIRMAN:

1
2 I'm going to raise the first question in which I would
3 like to have you respond to, recently Bob Woodward, of the
4 Washington Post published the choice, in which he offers his
5 portrait of the republican and democratic presidential
6 contender.

7
8 According to one of the reviewers, the key to Woodward's
9 for trail of Bill Clinton and Bob Dole, came down to the high
10 level of access allowed by one and the arms link added to the
11 other, what role does access really play in determining your
12 reporting and why should it such a difference? Regina, step
13 up.

14 MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

15 Oh, thank you very much. Access, I started my remarks by
16 saying I enjoy having more access to a campaign and then I
17 feel that part of the criticism that we get is exactly what
18 Richard was talking about, is that we tend to gloss over what
19 appears to be the obvious, because we don't have a deeper
20 understanding, I know I have had people ask me: "because you
21 are from Arkansas originally, does that help you on your
22 coverage with the President"? And what they're really asking
23 me is, do you get more information, do you get more access?
24 The answer to that is no, what it does do however, and the
25

1
2 reason I open my remarks with that, is that it gives me a
3 deeper background in understanding where he might be going or
4 something, what his priorities might be, for example, when he
5 asked the First Lady to share Health Care Reform, it was not
6 a surprise to me that he would do that, because if you look at
7 his background in Arkansas, you found that when he wanted to
8 make substantial changes in taxing for education, raising tax
9 revenues to change the education system in the State of
10 Arkansas, he turned to her. As in therefore, it was not a
11 surprise to me that he would turn to her for health care.
12

13 So, I think if this is the question that you're asking,
14 I think access is important from that point of view, because
15 it gives you a deeper understanding of the individual, not
16 necessarily, the conflict question, and I hate to use the word
17 character, because any more we view character in a different
18 more negative perspective, but it does give you a character
19 inside also.
20

21 MR. CHAIRMAN:

22 Ray.

23 MR. RAY SUAREZ:

24 Alright. Access is mother's milk, just as simple as that.
25 If you do my job, it really makes the whole product different

1
2 when you can explain what you had to way before you came to a
3 tough decision rather than simply announce that you made it.
4 It is good in terms of raw information to be able to say x-y-z
5 happened, or the state is going to do this, but it really, I
6 think helps you with the people that you serve, and people in
7 the case of my program, people who are listening to you in
8 other parts of the country, to understand what the conflicting
9 factors were.
10

11 There are some decisions that you make in your own states
12 that don't necessarily make you the most popular people within
13 its confines, until people get an idea of what it is. And, it
14 actually doesn't detract from you or the effectiveness of your
15 message, if you talk to people about why it was hard to make,
16 and what you to way out before you decided to go one way or
17 the other. And a lot of that comes from access, the ability of
18 people like me to give a nuance and thoughtful presentation of
19 the evolution of a decision, helps people understand why you
20 made it and understand why you thought it was better for the
21 state, and I think, you know, if we're all in the, in, of
22 going about the business of trying to make of America a better
23 place to live, non of that could really be harmful. I know
24 that, as I look around the table, Governor Dean, Governor
25

1
2 Carper, Governor Leavitt, when they were working on things
3 like block renting and talking about changes in the
4 relationship between Washington and the state, we're going to
5 work, I think it made a great deal of difference for them to
6 go on the air and say: "here's my government, here's my state,
7 this is what I get, this is what spent it on", it's not just
8 one key political freaks stuff, it helps when people can hear
9 you as managers, as governors saying, okay, these are some of
10 the hard things I have to figure out how to do with my
11 government before we move ahead.
12

13 So access, you know, it's wonderful to hear some of your
14 senior staff doing this, in what it's great to hear you.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN:

16 Richard.

17 MR. RICHARD BENEDETTO:

18 Access has two levels, it depends on what you're doing,
19 if you're covering governors, you're covering a governor on a
20 legislature or in Congress and President, and you need access
21 to the people who are involved because you want to get some
22 inside in the both the issues and the mechanics that the
23 people who are involved in making decisions on those issues
24 are going through.
25

On the other hand, access is not quite as important in political report in covering a campaign, it shouldn't be for a reporter on the trail, a reporter on the trail should let what's going on out there on the public arena be the, set the parameters for what has to be covered. How can we try to cover the election campaign in the same way that we cover the governors, so we try to get too inside and try to interpret too much into the campaign, and try to tell people what the candidate's strategy is, what it might be, what it might not be, what he has to do to win in California, what he doesn't have to do to win in New Mexico, and so fourth, and instead of telling people what is the candidate saying out there, what is the candidate's goal in saying that, how did the other candidate respond, and so fourth.

So, I think access is important naturally to the reporter, but it's not the only thing or not the biggest thing in a campaign, it is bigger in the covering of governors, they are two different jobs.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much Richard.

Regina, I want to just ask one question and turn over the Bob Miller for second a question. This year, as I understand

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2 that the mayor networks are cutting considerably the time that
3 is going to be focused on the national conventions. When
4 we're trying to get more people involved in politics and in
5 government and democracy, what's the rationale for your
6 network and all the other ones reducing considerably the
7 amount of coverage that you are going to be giving at the
8 National Conventions?

9
10 MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

11 I hate to speak on behalf of all the networks, I can tell
12 you what I have heard within just the planning phases, and I
13 would love to say I'm involved in the decision making, but I'm
14 not at that level. I think a lot of it has to do with the
15 fact, there are several components, one of which is money, it
16 costs a lot of money. All the major networks now are owned by
17 corporations who watch the bottom line, we no longer are
18 independently out there to spend money in news divisions like
19 we always used to. They want a budget, and they want you to
20 keep to it, so that's a big component of it.

21
22 There's a second component from an editorial point of
23 view this year too, and I think that, where's from my
24 perspective as I said before from a local level, you'll get
25 lots of it. I'll start doing live shots for the East Coast at

1
2 5:00 PM at night, and I'll go until 2;00 AM East Coast time
3 covering every market in this country, and there will be
4 markets who want that. But from a network perspective, I also
5 think too that you have to convince people when you want them
6 to take their air time and prime time thats money making time,
7 the people are going to watch it, and right now I not sure
8 that people who make those decisions believe that a Bill
9 Clinton versus a Bob Dole Conventions are going to draw a
10 whole lot of interest.
11

12 MR. CHAIRMAN:

13 Thank you for being so good weekender. Thank you. Bob
14 Miller.

15 GOVERNOR BOB MILLER:

16 Recently the center for media and public affairs found
17 that the current coverage of candidates offered by the media
18 deals overwhelmingly with the candidates perceived
19 electability and how they conduct the campaign as supposed to,
20 how they stand on the issues or what they're doing in the
21 campaign, but, when I go out and talk to voters that's untrue,
22 this is true, all my colleagues, the voters want to know about
23 the issues and it relates for them, so, whats wrong and why
24 isn't that the type of questioning that dominates the media
25

1
2 increase during the course of the campaign.

3 The embarrassing and perhaps true answer is that it's
4 harder to do that other kind of reporting, because the first
5 is based on speculation, gut checks and a very quick skim of
6 the facts as you can assest them, and the you go on that night
7 and, you should run a stopwatch when you're watching network
8 programming, and even your own local news, and you'll find
9 that many of the stories run no longer than a minute and
10 fifteen seconds. Governor Thompson mentioned that a sound
11 bite is only seven seconds long, well, it's happening inside
12 a narrative that runs barely longer than a minute to begin
13 with.
14

15 How much detail, how much a thoughtful exposition of the
16 facts can you get into a minute and fifteen seconds? It's
17 really, really tough. I wish we did more of the second kind
18 of coverage that you posit, but there are many people in
19 newsrooms who are convinced that even while the public is
20 telling us that's what they want, that they don't really want
21 it, and that's part of the tug-of-war that's going on in
22 newsrooms right now, but if we do give them that, they won't
23 really watch it.
24

25 I think that Ray makes a good point, I think that there's

an impression out there that we have to present all of this as entertainment other than conflict and is for, therefore, we ginner up, you know, we get both sides, the hottest redwood from both sides and then, for therefore we cover the debate. And we do it then, it's kind of a catch twenty two, that we reward the person that makes the wildest accusation or uses the wildest phrase, so the candidates and the politicians stay up nights with their staffs trying to think up some good sound bite that they can figure out the next day to get some coverage with, and so that we think that we've covered the issue very well because we presented the most extreme view on one side and the most extreme view ont the other side, and then, throwing it out there and said: "the general humor that affected that as the public says, ah, who can believe any of them, this problem can never be solved as an intractable one", and they turn off. But before you guys get a clean bill of health, you gentlemen around the table, you are co-defendants in this process, when we give into our own worst impulses, you help us, many of you produce commercials for which you buy no media time because you know that all your staff has to do is release it to the press and it will run on the evening news that night without you ever having to make a buy to that

commercial in any of the major markets in your state, if you tell me whether that's knowing how the system works or not.

MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

And I also think too is for good news, bad news sort of thing, I mean, we're all dependent upon readership, upon people listening to us, upon people watching us, it's called rating, it's called buying newspapers, that too is part of it and I know we have had several of our local affiliates tried to have an alternative station for a cable outlet. We're only going to talk about good news, about family news.

What do they watch? People aren't watching, it's like using the negative advertizing analogy.

Why do political candidates use negative advertizing? Because it works, because it works. Is that to say it's good, is that to say we should continue to do it? Not necessarily, but you look and you see what's out there as Ray said that who's playing part on this and the campaigns are playing a part in it and feeding that to the media.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Thank you. Tom Carper and Howard Dean and Bill Graves, see if we can lessen the time and the questions and the answers, we got a lot of them that want to ask.

GOVERNOR CARPER:

Thanks Richard for being here today, thank you for your candour, I wish I'd find... a little surprising and really welcome, I appreciate very much the comments you made about access and how important net that can be. I'm struck again with what you just said it was respect to good news and that it doesn't sell like, I know I hear from folks through Delaware who say: "Gosh, it would be nice if there are more good news in this country", and I feel that there's a long for good news, but we just don't often see it on the airways, I think maybe more locally than in perhaps nationally. To a lot of folks it seems to be there's conflict, that's what we focus on the news, if there's mayhem or ethical missteps, that's what we focus on. Even if those ethical missteps, whether they're real, whether they're just...someone's been accused of something, but whether they're really imaginary, we had a session this morning with Governors and spouses where we talked to have some of the imaginary stuff that is going on in different states around the country.

My question is this; I've heard a cause of the behavior of a, personal behavior one of my most beloved presidents, John F. Kennedy, and how he did his...now alleged to have had

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2 relations with women, not his wife, and that they involved
3 people literally coming into the White House, and the press
4 was aware of it, never reported it, turned their head the
5 other way, and gosh, twenty, thirty, thirty five years later,
6 we find that if you ask most people in our country, we're
7 going to be thinking the ethical standards of our electoral
8 features are higher or lower than they were at the time of
9 John Kennedy or whatever, might us, a lot of people would say
10 lower.
11

12 My question of you; Do you believe, do you believe that
13 the scruples, the person, code of personal kind of behavior,
14 the ethical standards that we said is electoral features are
15 higher, lower the same as those of a generation or two ago?

16 MR. CHAIRMAN:

17 Within twenty minutes please answer that.

18 MR. RICHARD BENEDETTO:

19 My guess is that it's probably the same, I don't think
20 there's much, they're any different than they were, I think
21 it's the way we cover them, I think that we have a tendency to
22 decide, if we have decided, and then there is it today that
23 all of those other personal kinds of characteristics are
24 important to the public, for the public to know, and they can
25

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2 make their own judgements upon them, I was not a reporter at
3 the time that John Kennedy was President, and I don't know
4 whether the reporters, some reporters who were there in those
5 days say they really didn't know, they had rumors, they heard
6 rumors, but they really didn't know what was going on, and
7 then even if they did know what was going on, the red of this
8 part would had never published it anyway. I mean, standards
9 for that kind of thing have changed, and I think that, should
10 we be really reporting on those kinds of things for
11 presidential candidates today? Probably we should, because I
12 think it's all part of the character question that people have
13 to make a judgement on, some have decided that it might be
14 important, some decided whether that it may not be important,
15 but how deeply do we have to go, that's one I just don't know,
16 but, it's a tough one, but think that most of this stuff is
17 probably relevant to decisions that people have to make about
18 presidents and candidates.
19

20 MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:
21

22 It seems to me that one of us are jumping him. We had a
23 thing called Watergate, and I think that's what separated a
24 lot of, what I guess you would call old reporting from new
25 reporting standards, and I can't answer your question either.

1
2 Do I think character is important? Yes. What are the
3 appropriate character issues? I don't know.

4 We do talk about them a lot, is it relevant to what this
5 person does in his or her job, those questions believe it, or
6 not are asked.

7
8 What I would find interesting to talk about and maybe
9 research, would be, not my age or your age voters and up, but
10 eighteen to twenty-five year old voters who have never taken
11 part in an election, that is the way it was before. In other
12 words, I think if you talk to the younger voter, they have a
13 cynicism that, and a vicious speculation on my part, that we
14 wouldn't have seen when I was their age, because it was, it's
15 all post Watergate, it's all much different.

16 To do, I think the characteristics are important to
17 answer questions, yes, but we do have a continuing debate on
18 just where you draw the line, and face it, we're on a much
19 different market than we were when President Kennedy was
20 president than ABC, NBC and CBS. Now we have CNN, and please
21 don't take my comments wrong, I'm not lumping CNN with this
22 other particular programs, but, you have talk shows, you have
23 opera, you have American Journal, you have Inside Edition, you
24 have Entertainment Tonight, you have Extra, I can go on, and
25

1
2 on, and on, and on, and these are the programs that pull on
3 those type of issues that you would have never seen on the
4 evening news or on the front page of the New York Times, so
5 it's a different world.

6 MR. RAY SUAREZ:

7
8 Is the moral fiber of people who seek tired office today
9 different than it was then? Probably not, I mean, people are
10 people, and the kind of people who seek to be leaders of big
11 institutions, are a different brand of people from people who
12 seek not to lead anything. And, one thing that I think has
13 changed, is that today's political elected persons, is
14 formally hem dinned by law than he or she was thirty or more
15 years ago, about how they raised the money for their
16 campaigns, and know that we're looking at million dollars
17 congressional campaigns and state campaigns in the larger
18 states for governors or United States Senators that cost more
19 than ten million dollars, I think the, many of you would
20 probably agree that the pressure to raise money is onerous and
21 sort of fills the rate or a screen. Besides the job of helping
22 to run your states. Do any of you do things that might not
23 sit well with you in a gut check? I don't know. Is it more
24 common than it was thirty years ago? I don't' know, but I do
25

1
2 know, that the need to raise money in such prodigious amounts,
3 create a situation that makes the people uncomfortable,
4 because they feel that money, the interests, have higher
5 access to your ear than they ever would.

6
7 When I have walked on the mall, and just talk to people
8 a reporter about whether they can go see their member of
9 Congress or their United States Senator, they are convinced,
10 sometimes incorrectly, that they absolutely cannot, because
11 they didn't give a big contribution, because they're not a
12 known person inside that district, because they don't
13 represent a corporate interest.

14 Money, I think is a far more potent part of the ethic's
15 problem that this sexual stuff.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN:

17 Thank you so very much. Governor Dean, and then Bill
18 Graves.

19 GOVERNOR DEAN:

20
21 I have a question of the last comment that I'd like you
22 to respond to, and I want to set it up for you, but I'll ask
23 in the out sentence is that, you know what your own role is.
24 Let me set it up for you.

25 I recently had a big arguments with a big paper in my

1
2 state over an add, the editorial, I went up and, so other we
3 had an hour and a half discussion, and one of the things they
4 asked me was... I asked them was, how do you see your role?
5 And he said: "We like to be positive, opinion makers, you
6 know, in our state", whereupon I tried to point out the
7 editorial may have made some opinions, but it certainly wasn't
8 positive.
9

10 Now, I'll grant you that we do sit around at our offices
11 figuring out how we're going to get it on the Evening News and
12 in what context, and how we're going stint, okay, so I'll take
13 ownership of being part of the problem. But let me ask you to
14 respond to your part of the problem, which you already
15 outlined. First is that you are not elected, and you don't
16 know what your role is. Is your role reporting, or is it
17 leadership? If it's reporting, perhaps you might do more
18 actual reporting rather than interpretation, perhaps you might
19 have reported the Slavina Independence day, the way that it
20 could have been reported, but it really isn't just reporting,
21 because that's not what you do.
22

23 The problem is it isn't leadership either, because if you
24 make an editorial decision that you, because you aren't going
25 to make enough money, decide not to put the convention in

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2 prime time, I think that deprives you of some responsibility
3 that you have. This is not simply about giving the american
4 public what they want, it's giving the american public what
5 they need, and I've been to a lot political conventions, and
6 I would never argue if I were an executive for NBC, that we
7 ought the whole thing on the air, believe me, having had to
8 sit through a few of them. But I think there are... it is
9 really important to put the conventions on in some of the
10 prime time, and I'd do it as a road blot so every body has to
11 watch it, that's part of living, your responsibilities as a
12 citizen, and though, even if it is all hot air and bladder,
13 that whatever people may think about it.

15 The other problem I've got is the news. And this is not
16 about politics. I know a fair number of people in my state
17 who won't let their kids watch the news, because they know
18 that the first thing up is going to be a horrendous rape and
19 murder with all the graphic details, perhaps warned by --this
20 may be offensive to some viewers--. Why do you guys have to
21 put that stuff on? That's not what most people grew up in
22 America. Maybe it should be in the last four minutes, maybe
23 it should be in the middle, some place, but it seems to me
24 that you are using the free airways in order to change
25

America's perception about itself, without any self analysis about what's responsible, there is all market driven and what people want. And I'm just going to submit to you, that if any politician ran for office saying --I'm going to get people what they want, not what they need-- you properly so would run us at our office and wouldn't belong there, and I think you've got that same responsibility as well.

MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

Once that you talk more about TV, I'll... go ahead.

GOVERNOR DEAN:

It is most possible... this is big with the papers.

MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

Fine, yes, I understand...

GOVERNOR DEAN:

I don't want to let anybody off the hook here.

MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

I think you've got a three, a least three points that I caught, one of which is, let me say from the beginning as far as networks are concerned, those debates do go on. And within our journalistic profession, for example, Radio, Television, and News Directors Association, that yearly meets, we have exactly those discussions.

We will have people, specially in local markets, who will set and say: "I cannot believe that you would put that on the air". A lot of it has to do with ratings, a lot of it has to do with a news director's particular point of view, and just as there are different points of view, using the political arena, there are different points of views on how you present the news.

I take your criticisms, and I think they are definitely legitimate, and those are, but please, please know that those issues are debated.

As far as the conventions, I do believe that it has been the decision, and I cannot speak, that, that final decisions have been made, but as far as the conventions are, there will be prime time of television coverage, it won't be as much as maybe of what we've seen in the past, but the main speeches will indeed be covered.

Actually, I think it would be much better if you didn't see all of us with those little crazy headphones on, standing down in the middle of the convention, where you can't hear us anyway, talking incessantly, as we have been quainted out here on our analysis. Let, let, let the voter watch the speech and make his or her own decision. Good idea? Maybe. Reporting

1
2 what's my job, I'm not an editorialist, I don't write
3 editorials, I don't make commentaries, and every single day,
4 and I cannot speak for everyone, but I can tell you this,
5 every single day I write a script, which I do every single
6 day, before I start the process, and by the time I'm the
7 process with the fact that's edited and it's shipped out to
8 every affiliate in this country, I do ask myself, was I fair
9 or unfair? Either side. And I can tell you one thing, when
10 I was a reporter in Arkansas, one of the best compliments I
11 ever got, was when Governor Clinton and his primary opponent,
12 both called me on the same day and said: "I can't believe you
13 said that about me" Both sides said the same thing, so
14 therefore, I knew I was trying to be balanced.
15

16 Those discussions do... I think there's a legitimate
17 criticism, and those discussions do go on.

18 GOVERNOR DEAN:

19 Thank you Regina. Ray.

20 MR. RAY SUAREZ:

21 I think you're right that we don't have to take the down
22 side, and, so we're not leaders to that degree. When we make
23 an editorial decision, certainly in the broadcast side of the
24 business, where it takes even a less tangible form than
25

1
2 reached in the paper, it's sort written on the air, and
3 sometimes anchors, a good friend of mine is an anchor, who has
4 pulled the earpiece out of his head at the end of the Evening
5 News, and said: "Well, it on its way to Pluto", because we
6 feel that, you know, the way if it just keep going on into
7 space and don't really have any consequence.

8
9 I think it's interesting, that at the same time as many
10 people in the country are calling for the diffunding of public
11 broadcasting, one network made a partnership with public
12 broadcasting to cover the conventions so they wouldn't have to
13 during prime time, and MPR would be doing more live coverage
14 of the conventions that any radio network. You know, I'll let
15 you make of that what you will, but there...I think those are
16 conflicting impulses, to not want to pay for the thing, but to
17 be glad it's there.

18
19 A lot of who drive the news business today, is as need to
20 compete with other forms of news and entertainment, and,
21 therefore, to the degree that we try to entertainers with the
22 news business, we fail in a very important function, and that
23 is to be somewhat different than that, and I think that we
24 make the mistake of thinking that we have to present our news
25 show or our newspaper in the way that, in the way that some of

1
2 the entertainment programs do it, and therefore we cheap in it
3 a lot, and therefore, the public doesn't take it seriously, it
4 doesn't, it doesn't come in and say --this is a...this is what
5 I want to hear, this is what I want to see--. If we over
6 emphasize prime news, are we really giving an accurate picture
7 of what's going on in that commune, is it really mayhem or
8 not, to the degree that some time you go and watch a local
9 news TV broadcast, you get the idea that you couldn't go out
10 on the streets, it wouldn't be safe to walk out in the
11 streets. And that's whether it would be a small commune or
12 larger one, I think that we, to the degree that we try to be
13 entertaining with the news, is how bad we... it affects how we
14 do our job, and I think that, we should keep that in mind all
15 the time, but we've got to be different.

16
17 MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

18 And another today that's going on, to follow-up on that,
19 is because we can go live now, virtually anywhere at any time.
20 I mean, there are very few black holes in the world where we
21 can't get a burnt-out, and get it to you, you know, there have
22 been times the burnt, the satellite, talking... we can almost
23 get any news out, anywhere, any time, and sometimes, as of
24 course fountage, you have to stop and you have to think,--
25

1
2 okay, I've just been on a plane, I really am not red into the
3 situation, but they're wanting me to go live right now. What
4 do I say? And that's when it's our responsibility, specially
5 in broadcast journalism, to stop and say, --I can't do it
6 right now--.

7
8 We will sacrifice that live shot forward information.
9 They don't like it, but, we can do it, and I mean, in the
10 Rodney King, the horrible riots in California, and the second
11 Rodney King trial that followed that up, I can remember being
12 asked this question, I wont say what affiliate it came from.
13 Will the city of L.A. burn like it did the first time? Let's
14 go large to Regina Blakely running in downtown L.A., just how
15 bad is it? What does that tell you? Lots of things.
16 Preconceived notion that the city's going to burn down again
17 first of all, second of all, that things are bad when in fact
18 they weren't, and my reply was, or I'm not downtown on the
19 Federal Courthouse and all is peaceful here. So this
20 instantaneous life factor that you deal with in the political
21 point of view, you know, it's a good bad thing. It's good,
22 because you get your message out (snaps fingers) just like
23 that, the reporters on your front lawn (snap fingers) just
24 like that, the governor said this about that, (snaps fingers)
25

just like that, to guess what, your opponent says that you have to respond a lot quicker than what used to.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Bill Graves gets the last question, Bill.

GOVERNOR GRAVES:

Ray, I was real interested in your opening comments about sort of the schizophrenical electorate and how you try to figure out what your role is, one of my favorite yoguism was the one about if people don't want to go out to the ball park, you can't stop them, you know... If people don't want to be informed, you can't stop them. You guys are kind of carved out a unique niche, I mean. What is your role, to tell them what they need to know or what they want to know?

To assume that they need to know farmore than they want to know, and just keep giving it to them and if they want it they'll take it, if they don't want it they'll turn us off, there are, I hope, that if you do it right, that you can make almost any story interesting. Several months before a million people were murdered in Rwanda, we did one hour on the coming problems in Rwanda, now, certainly that wasn't on anybodies's front page, and our own executive producer said: "Rwanda, where's Rwanda"? And sometimes you do things like that and

1
2 you know, I mean, I know people waiting in traffic in Kansas
3 City, or about o leave their house in Chicago, or, you know,
4 having it on the background as they're doing their work in the
5 kitchen in Charlotte, they probably said: "Rwanda" ? And
6 turned it off. But I feel that it was important to do that,
7 and for those who hung on for an hour, six months later they
8 thought, hey, I know a little bit about that already, and as
9 in deciding whether it was an appropriate thing for America,
10 through the UN to respond, in deciding whether, you know, the
11 United States has a role in every big tragedy in the world,
12 these were people who already felt like they had been spotted
13 five points.
14

15 So, we just put it out there, if they wanted they'd take
16 it, if not, we'll try to catch him another day, but, I'm a
17 firm believer that the spectrum of things in this world that
18 are interesting is far wider than any of us that are willing
19 to think, so, just keep pushing, pushing the arms on that
20 spectrum, and, you know, maybe some days we'll catch people
21 saying: "you know, I'm glad I hung in there for an hour even
22 though I thought at first this was something that I didn't
23 want to hear, but, I couldn't reach the button on the radio,
24 but thank, thank heaven for that.
25

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Thank you so very much, we really appreciate it and we
4 hope that everybody was well informed, thank you so very much.

5 (APPLAUSES)

6 MR. CHAIRMAN:

7
8 Now, we come to that part of our agenda where I think
9 it's a wonderful gesture on the part of the National Governors
10 Organization that we get a chance to award commendations to
11 distinguished people and organizations that have done things
12 to improve the quality of life of citizens back in our
13 respective states.

14 The National Governors' Association distinguished service
15 awards program, which was established in 1976 by this
16 Organization. As a way for us as governors, to bring national
17 recognition to their states most valuable civil servants as
18 well as private citizens. And particularly the focus the
19 attention on the commitment of state administrators and the
20 importance of the contributions that private citizens make to
21 state governments and the arks.

22
23 I want to thank all the governors who submitted
24 nominations for these awards this year, all the nominees I
25 believe were outstanding. In addition, I would like to thank

David Becktle, Manager of Government Affairs for Jobs and Controls, who shared the selection committee as well as the other members of the committee, affect the time out of their busy schedule to go over the applicants and find out who were going to be the winners. Awards will be presented in the state official, the private citizen and the arts categories. As I announce in each award, would they... award whenever they please come forward with their governor if the governor is present.

The first one in the state official category, the first winner, from Alaska, is Willis F. Kirpatrick, who's the director of Banking Securities and Corporations for the Alaskan Department of Commerce and Economic Development. Mr. Kirpatrick has served several of Alaska's governors as director of this department for more than fifteen years. His careful decisions concerning the state's financial future, have consistently helped protect Alaskan residents and businesses. Governor Knowles has stated that two of Willis' greatest qualities are his positive attitude and affable personality. The importance of such traits in a leader cannot be underestimated.

(APLAUSSES)

GOVERNOR TONY KNOWLES:

Thank you Governor Thompson, as I might make this one comment, certainly Alaska is very proud of Willis Kirpatrick, and I'd like to thank the NGA for really giving the opportunity to recognize public service.

When I called Willis, and I told him that we were going to nominate him, Willis said: "You know, this goes against every rule in terms of banking and securities of corporations that I was ever told", he said: "I was told never should my name be recognized or mentioned if I was doing my job right", well, today we've really blown your cover, and, but I would like to say, that because of you integrity and attitude, that you have given at a time when public service is really under questioned and screwed me and not always in the most favorable like, you really make us proud, thank you Willis.

(APPLAUSES)

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Next, from California is Eloise Anderson, director of the California Department of Social Service, and under Eloise Anderson's administration, several innovated programs were implemented to improve and reform Social Service delivery, Child Welfare Services in the Welfare System. This year, she

1
2 was selected by the Speaker of the United States House of
3 Representatives, to serve on the National Advisory Board and
4 Welfare Indicators. While under colleagues opinion,
5 underscores the value of place that her knowledge in judgement.
6 Governor Wilson has said that Eloise has made strides in
7 welfare reform throughout the State of California and the
8 Nation, where there's strong spirits of commune activism and
9 long standing commitment to improve the lives of children and
10 families. I would like to personally add that Eloise received
11 her training from me in Wisconsin before Pete Wilson stole
12 her away, and I'm trying to find a way to get her back, but I
13 am delighted that she is here. Thank you so very much.
14

15 (APPLAUSES)

16 MR. CHAIRMAN:

17 Next from Maryland, is Colonel David B. Mitchell, which
18 is Superintendency of the Maryland State Police, in a short
19 ten year Colonel Mitchell has improved in the integrity and
20 fairness of the Maryland State Police, while aggressively
21 battling crime. He has implemented department wide sexual
22 harassments and diversity training to all sworn and civilian
23 employees, has initiated a performance base promotional
24 standard and the spearhead of the Nation's first statewide
25

community police and academy to train law enforcement officers along community and government leaders, so that they can work together in solving problems unique to their communities. Governor Glendening describes him as a shining example of how effective state government can and must be.

(APPLAUSES)

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Now, we will recognize the award winners on the Private Citizens category. These individuals voluntarily give their special talents and resources to serve their states. First from Delaware, is Robert A. Kasey Junior, owner of Creative Grandparenting, Inc. Now, can we get a story and Regina, and CBS on this one. Alright. Driven by his desire to become a better grandparent, Mr. Kasey formed Creative Grandparenting, Inc. which serves all generations. This non profit organization with national and local membership, seeks to inspire, enable, and empower grandparents of other caring adults to enrich their development at young people in ways that benefit their families and communities. He also has implemented several other innovated programs, including Creative Menotoring, Community Grandparenting and a summary of respect.

1
2 Governor Carper has stated that Robert Kasey, is a very
3 enthusiastic and inspiring leader, who is always considered of
4 others and he's an outstanding living example of his
5 philosophy and innovative concept.

6 (APPLAUSES)

7
8 MR. CHAIRMAN:

9 Next from Utah, is Pamela J. Atkinson, who's the Vice-
10 President of Intermountain Health Care. Almost every homeless
11 person who stays in Salt Lake City long enough, knows Pamela
12 Atkinson. Accorded to a front page magazine article about her
13 titled "Saint Pamela" championing in the cause of the less
14 fortunates is her life's work. As vice-president at mission,
15 services for Intermountain Healt Care, she helps slow income,
16 underprivileged people obtain critical health care services.
17 And, Ms. Atkinson was instrumental in bringing about a legal
18 settlement to insure the safety and well being of foster
19 children throughout the state.

20
21 Governor Leavitt has said that Pamela has made a positive
22 impact on the lives of thousands of people from Utah by giving
23 her time, love, energy resources, she is an exceptional
24 humanitarian.

25 (APPLAUSES)

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Now I would like to present the NGA award for distinguished Services to the Arts, in the Artistic Support Category. But first I'd like to thank the members of the Arts Review Panel and my wife Sue Ann Thompson for sharing the panel this year. Sue Ann, would you please join me in presenting the next award.

The Artistic Support Award goes to George M. Irwin, an arts patron and collector from Illinois. Mr. Irwin has been an advocate for excellence in the arts for nearly fifty years. His record of service and leadership reflect his love of the arts. He's been a board member, trustee and founder of more than forty one art organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

Governor Edgar has stated that Mr. Irwin has been an ambassador for the arts in Illinois, by enhancing an understanding and appreciation for the fine arts through his efforts in both the public and private sectors. His ability, commitment and life long devotion to the arts, have brought both Mr. Irwin and the State of Illinois national distinction.

(APPLAUSES)

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2
3 MR. CHAIRMAN:

4 Unfortunately, two of our award winners could not be with
5 us today, but I'd like to briefly recognize their outstanding
6 contribution and thank them for their efforts.

7
8 In the Private Citizen Category, I'd like to commend
9 Minnesota's award winner John Brandl, Professor of Public
10 Affairs of the University of Minnesota, and a former State
11 Legislator, for his outstanding volunteer efforts along with
12 Congressman Vin Weber, on a report called " Agenda for
13 Reform": Competition, Community, Concentration, which lays
14 out the dimensions of the potential budget shortfalls facing
15 the state for years to come and present an agenda for
16 Minnesota to prevent those difficulties. Governor Carlson
17 describes him as one who justifies life by being of service,
18 and he sees public service whether as an elected official, a
19 professor, or as a private volunteer as a very high calling.

20
21 And finally, on the Artistic Productions Category, I'd
22 like to recognize the contributions of Donald Hall, New
23 Hampshire's Poet Laureate. I now am calling Governor Merrill
24 to join me at the podium, to accept this award on Mr. Hall's
25 behalf, and make some brief remarks.

(APPLAUSES)

GOVERNOR STEPHEN MERRILL:

Thank you very much. Donald Hall has published over forty volumes of literary criticism poetry and fiction, and is on a book tour today. He asked me to thank you all very much, but I want to do a little bit more than that. I was watching Bill Moyers, who did a special on two poets. The entire program was devoted to Donald Hall and his wife Jane Keneon, who Mr. Moyers said, well, perhaps the most dynamic writers of poetry in America, and they happened to be married. I was started to find out they were not only married, they were living in New Hampshire, so I hunted them up and became very friendly with them. They are a remarkable couple, and as life so often has it, I think one of the reasons that Mr. Moyers went to find them in their farm in New Hampshire, was that Donald Hall was suffering from cancer, and he wanted to be sure to capture the greatness of this man before he died. Well, as life would also have it, a year later, Jane Keneon died. Of then, undiagnosed cancer, and Donald Hall lives on and is still writing. But both of them became the Poet Laureate of New Hampshire, and upon Jane Keneon's death, I asked Donald Hall if he would once again serve as Poet

Laureate.

I conclude my remarks simply by saying this: " In the arts, there is a great feeling of community, there is a texture, it adds a richness. Men and women are doing great things in all of your states, be sure to find them. Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSES)

MR. CHAIRMAN:

We have a new award this year, and I'm very happy to be able to present it, and I'll like to make a very special presentation to His Excellency, the Ambassador Helmut Turic, of Austria. Mr. Ambassador, will you and your lovely wife join me at the podium?

(APPLAUSES)

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Why we give a special award and why it's so important to give it to this individual. Since the beginning of his term year in the United States, and hopefully you will pick this up on the news. We are giving you all kinds of copy now for you to go back and fill up for the whole week, good news. Since the beginning of his term year in the United States, Ambassador Turic, has stressed to be an ambassador of Austria

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2
3 to the United States, for him, means not only being the
4 Ambassador to Washington, but to all fifty states of the
5 Union. His strong commitment to this principle was reasonably
6 highlighted when he visited all fifty states. His trip that's
7 passed made to Oklahoma accomplished this mission. His long-
8 standing relationship with the United States began when he
9 first came to this country as an exchange student in 1957.
10

11 He maintains an outstanding diplomatic career, not only
12 in promoting Austria, but also in strengthling the United
13 States-Austrian economic cooperation. And if you haven't met
14 him personally, he will invite you all to Austria. And if you
15 don't answer immediately, he will follow up with and a
16 telephone call later. And he is always promoting exchange
17 programs in areas such as education and vocational training.
18 He's a dear friend of the National Governors' Association, he
19 recognizes the power of governors in the states. He has
20 participated in many of our meetings.
21

22 Mr. Ambassador, I'd like to present you with this
23 commemorative plaque in recognition of your tireless effort,
24 along with your wife to visit all of the fifty states.
25

(APPLAUSES)

1
2 AMBASSADOR HELMUT TURIC:

3 Mr. Chairman, I humbly accept this high award on behalf
4 of the government and the people of Austria, and I hope to see
5 you all in Austria very soon. Thank you very much.

6 (APPLAUSES)

7
8 MR. CHAIRMAN:

9 Thank you so very much, and now we go to the Executive
10 Committee, but by prior to going to the Executive Committee,
11 would the panel like to give us a thirty seconds analysis of
12 the November election? Thirty seconds is all you've got.

13 MR. RAY SUAREZ:

14 Well, I'd have to complaint about how we don't get enough
15 time to do things and how superficial they can be when we
16 don't give the enough time, I think it's going to be a
17 fascinating election.

18 (APPLAUSES)

19
20 MR. CHAIRMAN:

21 Regina.

22 MRS. REGINA BLAKELY:

23 I hope and expect it to be a fascinating election.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN:

25 Same for me.

1
2 MR. RICHARD BENEDETTO:

3 I you can believe the pulse, you're looking at the pulse
4 now, obviously, President Clinton has a solid lead, and if you
5 talk to a lot of real people, and, you know, around the
6 country, you'll find that that pretty much varies out in their
7 discussion. We have a new fact that's coming into the race,
8 the parole, land, factor, whether it will be a decisive one or
9 whether it will have much of effect, we really don't know yet,
10 we've got a lot of territory to cover yet to bet your mortgage
11 that this point would not be a good idea.
12

13 MR. CHAIRMAN:

14 Thank you very much Richard, Regina and Ray, we
15 appreciate it very much.

16 At this time, we will conduct a business of the NGA's
17 Executive Committee. All governors are invited to participate
18 in our meeting and discussion. You understand that only
19 members of the Executive Committee may vote at this time, you
20 all get a chance to vote on our decisions on Tuesday morning
21 during the plenary session. I would like to ask you, somebody
22 of you make a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21
23 Executive Committee, moved by John Engler and seconded by
24 Governor Bob Miller. There was one type or one million
25

1
2 instead of billion, and John Engler pointed that out, please
3 correct that Ray. Any further discussion here and then, all
4 those in favor except the minutes of the May 21 Executive
5 Committee will signify by saying "I".

6 GOVERNORS:

7 I

8 MR. CHAIRMAN:

9 Pose signify it for saying I, "I's" have it, motion is
10 granted.
11

12 Now, I'd like to call upon lead governors to summarize
13 NGA's priorities to legislative issues, and I'm going to start
14 off with an update on Welfare and Medicaid Reforms. I know all
15 of you are very interested in this and the likelihood now is
16 that Congress will pass in the Presidential signing, three
17 standing Welfare Reform Bill, and that is certainly increased
18 significantly in the past few days. Republican leadership in
19 Congress has decided they will split Medicaid and the Welfare
20 Package, and send Welfare to the President alone. Bob Dole
21 has also sent a letter to the President urging him to sign a
22 real Welfare Reform Bill. Congress is trying now to move the
23 bill on fast-track, they hope to have a bill on the
24 President's desk before the Congressional recess in early
25

1
2 August. Both the House and Senate may take up the bill on the
3 floor as early as this coming Wednesday, the Senate will be
4 operating under rules for consideration of reconciliation,
5 which means that there can be no filibuster. No debate in
6 amendments will also be limited. The House will consider the
7 bill under a close rule, which will limit debates and
8 amendments as well. The Bill that will be brought to the
9 House and Senate Floor does reflect right now by partisan, NGA
10 Welfare Reform policy in many ways. It creates Welfare as a
11 transitional program, a time limited cash assistance leading
12 to work and self sufficiency. It provides guaranteed and
13 predictable funding in the form of a block rent to stage and
14 allow substantial flexibility for governors to design their
15 own programs.
16

17 It also includes the additional four billion dollars in
18 Child Care Funding that governors requested for a total of
19 almost fourteen billion dollars in mandatory Child Care
20 Funding to the states, and we owe a great deal of gratitude to
21 Governors Engler and Carper in accomplishing that. It
22 provides the contingency fund for states during economic
23 downturn, and funds up to two billion dollars level requested
24 by this organization.
25

The grants restricts the Child Support Program particularly in the areas of interstate cases. There are areas in the bill however that are troublesome to governors. In particular, Congress made several changes during the markup, the strength in the work requirements, this may hinder state flexibility as well as increased costs. This modifications increase the hours of work required by receiptians, increase the work participation rate, and reduce the amount of job search allowed. Also, there's a problem, as I see it, in maintenance of efforts as well as the transferability of money from one program to another. CBO has estimated it could cost states an additional twelve billion dollars in additional work program cost for states to meet the work requirements. This is a gap we will try to narrow by restoring greater flexibility to states in the area of work. We think we have a chance to get that done. Other changes adopted in the Senate's Finance Committee, went further than HR-4 on the House skill in opposing some additional penalties, as well as new requirements on states. We will continue to work with Congress to reach a reasonable compromise on all of these components. While NGA will try to have some amendments adopted on the Senate Floor, our greatest opportunity to make

changes will be during the House-Senate Conference of the bill.

Congressman Clay Shaw, Chairman of the House Human Resources Sub-committee, was spearhead of Welfare Reform in the House, has pledged to me and to other members of this Executive Committee, to continue to work with us to achieve a bill that we all can support. Like all of you, I am very disappointed that we will not be able to achieve Medicaid Reform this year. He will recall that both Welfare Reform and Medicaid Reform were considered dead after the President's veto last year. However, the governors, and a by-part of some bases, renewed life into the efforts last February when we reached a by-part of some agreements on Welfare Reform. The Welfare Reform Bill is inactive this year, that reflects they are by-parts and recommendations, then we will have accomplished a great deal. I'm sorry about Medicaid, I'll tell you the six of us that were locked up in a room for over a hundred hours, during several weeks, know how hard we worked to reach by-part of some agreements, we thought we did, hopefully next year after the elections, that we will be able to get back together and continue to work on a by-part of some agreement on Medicaid.

1
2 At this time... Are there any questions on either one of
3 those subjects, Medicaid or Welfare, to the Executive
4 Committee?

5 Alright. The next one we will go to is Governor
6 Voinovich who would like to give us an update on the Safe
7 Drinking Water Act, which is very important to our states.
8 Governor Voinovich.

9
10 GOVERNOR GEORGE VOINOVICH:

11 Chairman, last June, following the passage of the
12 unfunded mandates legislation, the State-Local Government
13 Coalition got together and determined that the next issue or
14 priority that they would set for passage by Congress would be
15 the Reform for the Safe Drinking Water Act. And working with
16 Governor Nelson and the State-Local Government Coalition, we
17 were able to get the Safe Drinking Water Act passed in the
18 Senate unanimously, and by voice votes just recently by the
19 House of Representative.

20
21 I'd like to comment that the relationship that we have
22 developed with the other State and Local Organizations has
23 been a very, very fruitful organization in terms of getting
24 legislation passed, and it's one that I think we should
25 continue to try and maintain as an organization. The Safe

1
2 Drinking Water Act, I think is a perfect example of an
3 arbitrary environmental statute in diametral reform. The very
4 essence of the laws requirements is that the EPA promulgate
5 twenty- five new contaminants every three years that
6 communities must test for regardless of whether or not they
7 actually occur in the region of drinking water.

8
9 For example, in my state, we have found forty-three
10 synthetic organic chemicals, mainly pesticides, that EPA
11 require water systems to test for, but there are only nine of
12 these, and where they say we've got to test for forty three,
13 only nine of them are actually used in the State of Ohio.

14 Now, we believe that the current program is broken,
15 Congress obviously agrees with it, it's in Conference
16 Committee, and later on I'm going to ask this organization to
17 pass a resolution, urge in Congress to pass this legislation
18 before August the 1st. If they don't do that, then we will
19 loose about \$725,000.000.00 from the Drinking Water, a
20 revolving loan fund that they appropriated last year. I'd
21 like to thank Tom Curtis, of the staff, who has really done an
22 outstanding job in helping us get this legislation passed.

23
24 MR. CHAIRMAN:

25 Thank you so very much, I would like to thank you

1
2 Governor Voinovich for what you've done on this area as well
3 as other things, going to Washington, being involved in
4 spearheading the effort to get it passed. It's very important
5 for us to get something done, this session of the Congress
6 before the adjourn, and of course they're going to adjourn I
7 believe the first week in August for thirty days, so I hope
8 that we can get it done, and I want to thank you and
9 congratulate you for your hard work.
10

11 You want to bring up your resolution now George?

12 GOVERNOR GEORGE VOINOVICH:

13 That'll be fine. I moved the adoption of the resolution.
14 And what is the resolution? The resolution is a resolution
15 urging Congress to pass this legislation before August the
16 1st.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN:

18 It's a tremendous impact in all of our states, and we
19 should pass it, it should be a strong resolution asking
20 Congress to act on it, it's a by-part of something and it has
21 had by-parter in support in Congress and you've done a
22 wonderful job George on it.
23

24 GOVERNOR GEORGE VOINOVICH:

25 And have the by-parters from second.

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 And get a by-parter for second. Any further discussion
4 on the resolution? Hearing then all those in favor of passing
5 the resolution asking Congress to act on the Safe Drinking
6 Water Act before August 1st, signify it by saying "I".
7

8 GOVERNORS:

9 I, I, I...

10 MR. CHAIRMAN:

11 Pose signify it by saying "I", "I's" have it, motion is
12 granted.

13 Now, I would like to call on Governor Carper to give us
14 an update on Work Force Issues, another important issue to us
15 as governors.

16 GOVERNOR TOM CARPER:

17 Thank you Mr. Chairman. All of us gathered in Washington
18 at the end of January and the beginning of February. And we
19 hammered out agreements consensus, unanimous consensus on
20 Welfare Reform. Unanimous consensus on Medicaid. We are
21 hopeful that the Welfare Reform changes will be an accurate
22 hopeful, that the Medicaid changes would reenacted. One other
23 issue that we gave a rather short trip to, at that time was
24 the issue of Work Force Development, because we were sure that
25

those changes that had been kind of played, actually passed in the House by five to one margin, passed in the Senate by, with only two dissidence votes, and the Conference said that continuing as that until we we're actually certain, that their consensus would be found there and the President would be signing legislation to our consultary program, simplifying and giving us a lot more effectivility. That was last... In January, the Conference that was convened last October, and if anything the Conferees and House and Senate are further apart now then they were then, a lot further apart, and then, to gather here today, I'm a matter of optimistic we sent governors two letters I think in the last month, I think both of them were addressed to Senator Kassebaum, who is the prime author of the legislation. It's been encouraged in her and her colleagues to work in it along, and a by-part of something to get this back on track and get it enacted. I suggested to the Chamber this morning over breakfast, that we face prospectably the works of all the world. Less money for these programs and no flexibility. We saw the money was adequate or appropriate in '95, was diminished in '96 and the anticipation was to be diminished further in '97, and if a lot of folks in Washington and around the country have their way,

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2 we're going to end up with less money and the same lack of
3 flexibility that we've always had. Driving the need to some
4 action, we hope they're the right actions, as we've got some
5 states that represent whatever is in around this stable
6 action, has passed legislation that anticipated the kind of
7 change that we all thought were coming from Washington and now
8 it's discouraging that they may not... those changes may not
9 come. There are a couple of things we ought to do in order to
10 guess three of them. One is just to push very hard on
11 Republican leadership in the Congress and on Democratic
12 leadership to get this done.
13

14 My understanding is that there are a couple of things the
15 President wants, that we want, and maybe a thing or two that
16 the President wants that we don't want in the bill. And I
17 would just mention that one of each, the President said that
18 he won't sign a bill that takes the word "deletes us, go to
19 work". We as governors support "let's go to work". The
20 President also said that he would like to has mandate about
21 people could use and take the different Work Force Development
22 entities within our state, I think the administration might be
23 going to back-up the mandate, and those who with a little more
24 flexibility, but we need that. And we have some folks in...
25

1
2 I don't want to make this a political discussion, we've got
3 some folks in the other party who have some concerns that
4 really, if they're addressed in a lighter day with the facts
5 that Senator Kassebaum in it's speech, is actually dependèd to
6 our material, they really don't stand up through the light of
7 day.

8
9 So three things, one, push very hard both sides,
10 Executive and Legislative Democratic and Republican down there
11 to get this bill passed.

12 Second thing that we need to do is to work on the
13 appropriator, the idea of having less money for this program,
14 and no more flexibility is something we have to raise we the
15 appropriator.

16 Lastly, what would we may want to do within this
17 organization and with their own staff, is to explore the
18 administration, if we do don't get the money that's needed,
19 and if we don't get the flexibility too, legislation is
20 needed, we may ask them to explore, the administration to
21 explore, give us some regular to relief, to regulation,
22 administratively. As much as we have done with respect to
23 Medicaid and to Welfare. That may be, that's not the
24 preferred course, but it may be in end our only option.
25

1
2 Thank you.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN:

4 I would just like to add very quickly, that there are
5 over a hundred programs, as Governor Carper has indicated,
6 that are going to be consolidated under the legislation. And
7 it receives strong, strong by-parters and supporters, "that
8 90% of the people who voted on it in Congress voted for it".
9 And in 1995, the States had 5.2 billion dollars. This year
10 it's been dropped to 4.6 billion dollars, and the Corporation
11 Bill is going to reduce it an additional 50 million dollars,
12 and that means that we're going to have this a hundred and
13 some programs with the plaster of rules and regulations that
14 we have to comply with, with less discretion, less
15 flexibility. And, who's to blame? The people on both side
16 have to blame, and we have to put a great deal of emphasis and
17 pressure as governors. On a by-part of some basis to get this
18 thing through. I think it's a terrible thing that we haven't
19 been able to pass it, and, whatever we can do together
20 collectively to contact our Congressmen and Senators, I think
21 we should do it, because it's going to impact directly on each
22 and everyone of your budgets.

23
24
25 Any other questions? Yes, Governor Engler.

GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER:

The only thing I observe is that if we're close to getting a Conference report signed that under House scenario and Senate's scenario or various situations, the Conference Report, all of those are significantly better than current law. There is nothing that's a step backwards. They may not go as far as we would like, that may be things left behind it we would like, but clearly, all of them represent a substantial consolidation of generally speaking, of a hundred and fifty different Federal programs down to two or three or four Federal programs and so fourth, it will be very important to resist both, I think, from the left and from the right, the different peeress perspectives since this what this ought to be, and that the governors have been the motivating force behind the reforms, and that we need to continue that, because it's likely not to be all that I would want or all that you would want or any other governor might want, but clearly, just to finish this and make it round one of what can be then, another round next year, but to let it pulse short, giving the fiscal reality that you sighted, I would be a serious blow to our states ability to perform in this areas.

1
2
3 MR. CHAIRMAN:

4 Thank you John. I can impress upon this
5 organization, how important it is to try and get this thing
6 through, so, we're all going to be impacted, so, let's try and
7 contact our various representatives and see what they can do.
8 I'd now would like to call upon the Executive Director, Ray
9 Scheppach, provider for an update, on our fiscal 1997 Federal
10 budget. Ray.

11
12 MR. RAY SCHEPPACH:

13 Now, very quickly Mr. Chairman, the House has now adopted
14 seven of the Appropriations Bills and they're currently
15 working on an additional three to hopefully report out over
16 the next couple of weeks. The Senate is now trying to take up
17 two a week between now and the August recess. The Conference
18 Committees will therefore take place in September, although
19 there's an increasing probability that this will all get
20 turned into a continuing resolution that would probably go
21 through March of next year. It looks like in terms of the
22 numbers that a status-quo appropriation levels pretty much in
23 agreement which what you're currently operating on for this
24 fiscal year will be what's adopted in most areas.
25

1
2 As was mentioned, the Medicaid has now been dropped, but
3 I think the Medicare reconsideration portion has been dropped
4 and it is all likely that the tax portion, so what we really
5 have now basically pending is the Welfare Bill in perhaps the
6 continuing resolution for the appropriation.
7

8 MR. CHAIRMAN:

9 Now we go to the policies which have been submitted by
10 the Executive Committee, and we have to take action on these.
11 The First one is Manage Care and Health Care Reform, and I'd
12 like to call on Governor Howard Dean, from Vermont, to discuss
13 the amendments to this policy. Howard.

14 GOVERNOR HOWARD DEAN:

15 Chairman, I moved this policy, there is one issue in the
16 policy which is of some... of concern, and that is the piece
17 in the last final paragraph, which we are not offering an
18 amendment to right now, but probably will try to work with the
19 number of governors between now and Tuesday to operate, to
20 suspend the rules in the final sessions before we adopt them.
21 But, otherwise I'd move this policy.
22

23 MR. CHAIRMAN:

24 Do you remember the designs of standards being offered by
25 Governor Roy Romer and yourself?

1
2 GOVERNOR HOWARD DEAN:

3 Yes, and we will be holding off a the minutes, so that we
4 can... No, actually Mr. Chairman, the amendment has to do with
5 the last paragraph which discusses...the amendment will
6 actually affect the entire last paragraph which we run as in
7 wording problems with, we will...

8
9 MR. CHAIRMAN:

10 Let's see if we work it out over...

11 GOVERNOR DEAN:

12 That's right, we'll work it out between now and Tuesday,
13 so, what we will probably want to change some of the language
14 in the last paragraph next Tuesday, I mean, this coming... the
15 final session. So, having said that, I just warn everybody
16 that there will be some words missing there, I moved the
17 policy.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN:

19 Alright. Move by Howard Dean to adopt this policy, is
20 there a second?

21
22 Seconded by Governor Engler, all in favor of this policy,
23 signify it by saying "I".

24 GOVERNORS:

25 I.

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Pose signify by saying A, "I's" have it.

4 Second implement in the Policy Statement of the National
5 Education Summit. I want to mention this policy is going to
6 be addressed and discussed further, at the governors only
7 session this afternoon. So, I would hope that we could
8 restrain ourselves on the amendments until we get into the
9 governor's only meeting where I believe we will have some
10 spirited discussion on this occasional entity. Governor
11 Romer, would you like to make some comments about this
12 proposal?
13

14 GOVERNOR ROY ROMER:

15 I think we're going to discuss it later, I think it's a
16 continuation of the policy meeting, it's a good document, I
17 think we need to discuss some questions that Governor Allen
18 has about it, and I think we ought to be on down the road.
19 You need a motion?

20 MR. CHAIRMAN:

21 Yes, I do.
22

23 GOVERNOR ROY ROMER:

24 I move that we put it on or adopt it, whatever the
25 appropriate motion is.

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Move the resolution as adopted?

4 GOVERNOR ROY ROMER:

5 I move we adopt the resolution as appears in votes.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN:

7 Seconded by John Engler, any further discussion here and
8 now, and all those in favor of this motion signify by saying
9 "I".
10

11 GOVERNOR:

12 I.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN:

14 Pose signified by saying A, "I's" have it, motion is
15 granted.

16 The third one is The Effect of the Seminole Decision, on
17 the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and, I would like to quickly
18 come on that policy, as all of us know, there is a Supreme
19 Court decision, and while the Secretary of the United States
20 Department of Interior considers whether he can by-pass state
21 authority in the areas of establishing Class III gambling on
22 indian land, we have send a strong message as governors to
23 Secretary Babbit first, that IGRA remains in effect and
24 continues to be the only mechanism through which indian tribes
25

1
2 may legally operate Class III Gaming. Second, that there is
3 no authority provided IGRA, that would empower the Secretary
4 to create a process through which he may by-pass states and
5 provide a remedy for tribes in cases where a state asserts the
6 11th Amendment depends to suit. And finally, governors
7 reasserted that clarification of the scope of gaming, is at
8 the rod of the complex arising between states and tribes over
9 IGRA implementation.
10

11 And as you all know, the Supreme Court endorsed the
12 states armistice, the states armistice and it's decisions
13 recognizing states defence, the suit under 11th Amendment of
14 the United Constitution. I believe that the result of this
15 case ought to be the tribes come to the table with a compact
16 proposal, that does not demand the operation of gambling
17 activities that are otherwise prohibited by state laws. It
18 would be unthinkable for the Secretary to use a decision that
19 so strongly confirm state authority as justification for
20 interstate gambling laws, regulations or procedures. And
21 governors have emphasized their continuous commitment to work
22 with the Secretary and Congress, resolve the difficult issue
23 of right in on of IGRA implementation.
24

25 Let made it clear that this solution was not going to

1
2 come at the expense of states sovereignty. I want to also
3 mention this proposal is previously adopted as inner on
4 policy, and no further Executive Committee action is necessary
5 today, we more than likely will do that on Tuesday.

6
7 Next, Renewal of the Most Favorite Nation Status for the
8 People's Republic of China, I'm now calling Governor Engler
9 for remarks about this policy, and I also want to remind that
10 this proposal is also previously approved as inner on policy
11 and no further action by the Executive Committee is necessary.

12 GOVERNOR ENGLER:

13 I'll be real brief in... because it is already
14 interpolicy, and we don't need to act on it today, we simply
15 allow that National Governors' Association to support the
16 present leisure of Congress on this issue, of continuing to
17 have normalized trade relations with China, references in the
18 number of the different specific factors relative to US-China
19 trade, and commits and endorses efforts to reduce copyright
20 imprintments or limit piracy to make sure that the trading
21 relationship is a fair one, but it recognizes that normalized
22 trading relationship is in the economic instance of the United
23 States, and indeed, of certainly of China, but also that to
24 strengthen and continue trading relations, it also would work
25

1
2 in the interest of human rights, and so, it's a position that
3 has been sustained actually by the as the House of
4 Representatives when they refuse to override this decision to
5 continue to normalize trading relations and, I continue to
6 speak english to write a message, and he has suggested that
7 for state relation, that phrase be changed, you know, that
8 really reflect the status to normalize trade relations that
9 doesn't mean any favor that's stowed on a nation that violates
10 basic human rights, because it recognizes it, certainly if we
11 have a Most Favored Nation Status for Siria, that we also
12 perhaps continue to have a normalized trade relationship with
13 China.
14

15 MR. CHAIRMAN:

16 Thank you very much Governor Engler.

17 Finally the Executive Committee recently adopted inner in
18 policy in strong opposition to Federal Reserve Board
19 Regulation E, dealing with electronic benefit transfers. We're
20 talking about Regulation E, it's something that I find very
21 apparent for governors, and that is that the Congress was
22 going to require us under Welfare and Medicaid, to go into
23 electronic transferring of benefits, but at the same time, if
24 there's any fraud or abuse, the states will have to pay for
25

1
2 it. I thought it was really contrary to what the existing law
3 is.

4 If we pass inner in policy on it, we have been able to be
5 successful in the House Agricultural Appropriation
6 Subcommittee Bill, which prohibits the final issue into
7 Regulation E, we also need now support on the Senate,
8 otherwise, it's going to be another unfunded mandate, a very
9 extensive one placed upon the states.
10

11 The policy is going to be coming before the full body
12 through the Human Resources Committee on Tuesday, and I would
13 like to once again, at that time, to reaffirm our opposition
14 to Regulation E.

15 I now would like to call on the outstanding Vice-
16 Chairman, Governor Bob Miller for the report on the NGA
17 administrative issues including update in NGA final fiscal
18 1996 budget Approval of Grants and Contracts, as well as a
19 brief remarks on the New Governors Seminar. Governor Bob
20 Miller.
21

22 GOVERNOR BOB MILLER:

23 Under Tab D, the first three pages are devoted to the NGA
24 Financial Statements through May. As of May 31st. NGA has
25 approximately a 1.3 million dollars surplus, almost half of

that relates to the reversal of reserve established for the NGA's deal well indirect cost products.

The established reserve was 600 thousand and the excess for the final settlement would deal well, remaining surplus to do formally the timing differences, we expect to end the year with a very small surplus. Are there any questions on that?

The grants are under pages 4 and 5 under tab D, the first is the Carnegie Corporation Grant for Education, the second is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant, relating the health. If there are any questions, so, the director will answer those, if not, I make a motion for the approval of the Grant.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Motion is made by Governor Miller, and seconded by Governor Engler. Any discussion here and now, and all those in those in favor of the motion signify it by saying "I".

GOVERNORS:

I.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Pose signify it by saying I, "I's" have it, motion is granted.

Governor Miller.

1
2 GOVERNOR MILLER:

3 The Seminar for New Governors that will be held in
4 Atlanta, Georgia, that's kind of a follow-up for the Olympics,
5 and I guess Governor Zell Miller, you know, just still want a
6 total withdraw, so he's going to house us there from November
7 14th to 16th in the Buckhead District, if you're e familiar
8 with Atlanta.

9
10 We expect a relatively small class of new governors, and
11 so the that the formats can be very informal, and for those of
12 you that enjoyed today's... and sponsored discussions, with
13 the spouses that Sue Ann put together with excellence, I
14 thought that some of the new governors think we'll have even
15 more of that as this one, and since we're going to have time
16 to interact a lot, we're going to have the Executive Committee
17 Meeting in conjunction with that Seminar to kind of solidate
18 schedules. And fellows accord to bring in the new spouses and
19 governors as well as having as many of you as possible the
20 desire to participate at faculty, and those of you who want at
21 faculty as your schedules develop, please let us know.
22 November 14 to 16. Thank you.

23
24 MR. CHAIRMAN:

25 Thank you Governor Miller. I'd like to announce now that

1
2 we are going to adjourn, and we're going to go to the
3 Governors Only Session, it's going to be in the Pablo Ballroom
4 on the Mirador level, and we're going to have the discussion
5 center on the National Education Summit, and the Governors
6 Priority for NGA. And I also would like to remind you that
7 we're going to try and conclude by, probably 3:15, and at
8 which time the NGA Corporate Fellows are going to come in and
9 we're going to have a discussion with the Corporate Fellows.
10 And so please leave here and go to the ballroom and we'll get
11 started immediately. Thank you so very much for your
12 consideration.
13

14 I also would like to announce that we did not get a
15 chance for Governor Rosselló to make the welcoming remarks, we
16 got too much going on this afternoon, but he will get that
17 opportunity either Monday or Tuesday in the Plenary Session,
18 but thank you again Governor Rosselló for your hospitality.
19

20 (Whereupon, the Plenary Session was adjourn)
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, José Espinosa, Court Reporter and member of Espinosa
& Espinosa, Inc.,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY: That the foregoing transcript is a
full, true and correct record of the Plenary Session which was
taken down by me.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 12, 1996.



JOSE ESPINOSA

COURT REPORTER

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION
HALL OF THE STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

IN RE: 1996 ANNUAL MEETING :
CLOSING PLENARY SESSION :
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

DATE :Tuesday July 16, 1996

TIME :9:30 a.m.

CLIENT :NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS :Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

CELEBRATES AT :El Conquistador Hotel
Salons 4 and 5, Grand Caribbean Ballroom
Fajardo, Puerto Rico

PRESENT WERE:

Governor Tommy Thompson,
Wisconsin, Chairman

Governor Bob Miller,
Nevada, Vice Chairman

Governor David M. Beasley
South Carolina

Governor George Allen
Virginia

Governor Pedro Rosselló
Puerto Rico

Governor Howard Dean, MD.
Vermont

Governor Don Sundquist
Tennessee

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1
2 Governor Kirk Fordice
Mississippi

3 Governor Bill Graves
4 Kansas

5 Governor Roy Romer
Colorado

6 Governor Frank Keating
Oklahoma

7 Governor Carl Gutierrez
8 Guam

9 Governor Tony Knowles
Alaska

10 Governor Gary E. Johnson
New Mexico

11 Governor Terry E. Branstad
Iowa

12 Governor Lawton Chiles
13 Florida

14 Governor Jim Edgar
Illinois

15 Governor George Voinovich
Ohio

16 Governor Paul E. Patton
17 Kentucky

18 Governor Stephen Merrill
New Hampshire

19 Governor Parris Glendening
Maryland

20 Governor John Rowland
21 Connecticut

22 Governor Tom Carper
Delaware

23 GUESTS:

24 Mr. Robert Dole, Former Majority Leader of the U.S.
Senate

25 Mr. Bill Clinton, President of the United States

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Would the governors please come in. We have the final
4 plenary session to begin. We are going to hear from Senator
5 Dole, former Senator Bob Dole and President Clinton. Later
6 on this morning, we have a lot of policies we have to
7 discuss. We have to, right at the end of the meeting, change
8 Chairmanships to Bob Miller; and we have a lot of things
9 that we've got to get done this morning. So I would
10 appreciate it if everybody would come in as soon as
11 possible.
12

13 I would like to call the final Plenary Session to
14 order. I would like to welcome all of our guests to the
15 closing Plenary of the 1996 National Governor's Association
16 annual meeting. Our guests from Japan, and the Ambassador
17 from Austria, and guests from all over the United States,
18 and especially Puerto Rico. We are very pleased that you're
19 in attendance for this final session.

20 I would like to just begin by thanking all of our
21 hosts, hostesses for...from Puerto Rico, from the Governor
22 on down, Governor Pedro Rosselló and Maga Rosselló, I think,
23 just did an outstanding job for this convention. And I think
24 it would be nice just to show our appreciation, as to give a
25

big long round of applause to all of those people that put on this conference (Applause). And not only has, as I believe, from my perspective anyway, that our time has been very productive. From a policy standpoint, we have reached agreement on all of our policies, some of it was controversial. We worked together, and good bipartisan fashion, which is the cornerstone of this organization. And we were able to reach consensus on all of the policies, as I understand it. And I want to thank all of you for working so hard to accomplish that.

I also want to thank each of the Governors for their time and energy that they have donated and dedicated to NGA this past year. And I believe together, as partners, we've accomplished a great deal.

First, you all supported me to have an outside consulting firm perform a complete operations review on NGA. I can assure you that everybody was somewhat concerned, especially the staff, and all of you, as governors, made comments. Not all of them I can assure you, were complementary. We heard what you said, we also heard what you wanted to change. At our winter meeting we adopted those changes to make NGA a much stronger organization. One that

1
2 all of us as governors, Democrats, Republicans and
3 Independents can be proud of. We now devote more time to
4 private Governor's only sessions at our meetings. We had a
5 special program this past Sunday, which I thought was very
6 interesting and widely accepted. We are more focused on the
7 major lobbying issues, and setting priorities. We spent time
8 yesterday on setting priorities. We will continue to do that
9 through the upcoming year under the leadership of Bob
10 Miller.
11

12 We are also now piloting our own NGA Home Page on the
13 Internet. This will allow you as Governors, and your staff
14 to receive policies, letters, and lobbying updates via the
15 Internet to cut down dramatically on the paper sent from NGA
16 to state capitals. You will also have ready access to NGA
17 staff and the director, and be able to find out immediately
18 what you need. They will be able to get you that information
19 almost immediately.
20

21 I would encourage all governors and the staff, to take
22 a look at the new Home Page that is set-up on a computer in
23 the hall outside this room. We're moving ahead; we're using
24 technology to make our organization more effective for all
25 of us. And we have re-focused our policy center to provide

1
2 more best practices information on states. We are also
3 exploring the idea of setting-up a university for governors
4 throughout America. The first out-put of this newly re-
5 focused center for "best practices", is the Southern Task
6 Force Reports on ideas that work, that have been released at
7 this meeting.

8 I want to thank each of you for submitting your states
9 "best practices" information. Before you, ladies and
10 gentlemen, are your seven policies, in this ready to be made
11 desk manual, desk set that you can review. This report
12 should pay great dividends to you and your policy staff.

13
14 I told the press yesterday that over five hundred
15 innovative ideas, much more than have ever been compiled
16 before, and governors worked very hard to get that done.

17 The best ideas, you have the background information,
18 you can contact the governors and so on. I also indicated
19 that if they compared our output with new innovative ideas,
20 with what come out of Washington, that what comes out of
21 Washington, could be compiled, I believe, in less than one
22 book, where it takes seven books for governors.

23
24 Second, we came together for an Education Summit in
25 March. We had forty one governors in attendance, and forty

1
2 nine business executives. We make a commitment to implement
3 education standards and assessments. We're now following-up
4 on that initiative and we'll talk about it a little bit
5 later this morning. This was an historic achievement that
6 will pay great dividends in the future for our students and
7 out country, by increasing the kinds of standards and
8 assessments that a lot of people worked very hard on.

9
10 Third, several governors spent over one hundred hours
11 negotiating on Medicaid and Welfare. We developed a policy
12 that was adopted unanimously by all governors at the winter
13 meeting. But we were not able to maintain our strong
14 bipartisan commitment, since it is a Presidential election
15 year. We did have a major impact on the two bills working
16 their way through Congress today.

17 I want to say a special thanks to Governor's Miller,
18 Romer, Chiles, Leavitt, Engler, and Carper for their great
19 efforts.

20 I want to tell you that not always did we get along.
21 But when we were at our darkest moments and we were losing
22 our tempers, somebody always would come up with a great
23 saying that would break up the group, and we would be able
24 to get back on task.
25

1
2 I think the greatest saying was by Governor Chiles one
3 day, when he looked at Governor Leavitt and Engler and
4 myself, and he says, "Gentlemen, if you keep thinking the
5 same thoughts you've always thought, you will end-up doing
6 the same things you've always done". And it broke us up, and
7 I have used that quote. I've not always given the correct
8 quote to Governor Chiles, but I've used it to my advantage,
9 I can assure you, many times.
10

11 I also want to thank Governor Voinovich, for all of
12 his work with the "big seven" state and local government
13 organizations, to get the mandate reform legislation
14 enacted. People said it couldn't be done. Governor Voinovich
15 did it. It's already paying great dividends; and Governor
16 Voinovich may even get the "Safe Drinking Water" legislation
17 passed this year as well. And I want to thank you George for
18 your hard work.
19

20 At this point, I want to express my appreciation to
21 the governors who headed-up the "Ideas That Work Task
22 Force"; Governors Rowland and Lowry on "Business and
23 Environment"; Governors Conehan and Sundquist on "Crime and
24 Public Safety"; Governors Whitman and Hunt on "Education";
25 Governors Caperton and Geringer on "Infrastructure";

1
2 Governors Tucker and Fordice on "Job Creation"; Governors
3 Engler and Dean on "Self-Sufficiency"; and Governor Bob
4 Miller on "Tax Reform".

5 I now would like to ask a few of these governors to
6 briefly discuss their Task Force Reports. And the first one
7 I'm going to call upon, Governor Dean. Governor Dean, are
8 you ready to report on your Task Force on Self-Sufficiency--
9 The Self-Sufficiency Task Force Report. But I would hope
10 very much, as Governor Dean is coming back to his desk, that
11 all of you as governors would take this desk-set, put it in
12 your office, and refer to it, because there are some great
13 ideas in there, that really do work, in states across
14 America; and you can utilize them, you can take the ideas,
15 take them as your own, and be able to, I think, very
16 sufficiently improve the quality of government in all of
17 your states. With that, I would like to ask Governor Dean to
18 report on the "Self-Sufficiency Task Force Report".
19
20 Governor Dean.

21 GOVERNOR DEAN:

22
23 Thank you Mr. Chairman. This would not be the NGA if
24 it were not some last-minute on health care policy. We were
25 just--Governor Sundquist and Governor Romer and I were just

1
2 getting those straightened out before that policy comes up.
3 So I apologize for not being at the ready when you called
4 me.

5 First of all Tommy, I want to thank you for your
6 terrific leadership. This has been an excellent year where
7 we can look at, "Best Practices", look at "Management
8 Practices", and I think that most of the NGA governors that
9 I've spoken with at this meeting and others, value the NGA
10 because we learn so much from each other. What one state
11 does is often applicable to something-- a problem that I
12 have; and I can appreciate and use that solution in our
13 state. So, very much in a spirit of that, I want to thank
14 you for your leadership and your excellent year as Chair of
15 NGA.
16

17 What we have done essentially, is look at how we can
18 reform our Welfare and Work-force Programs, so that
19 individuals can become self-sufficient. As many people know,
20 the biggest problem with the Welfare System in this country,
21 is that it teaches people to depend on others without
22 contributing anything to the system themselves. In Vermont,
23 we have a Welfare Reform Program. There's about forty states
24 now due under waiver, which requires work in exchange for
25

1 Welfare. But also does lead people down the road to self-
2 sufficiency by things such as job training, supporting
3 families, which is extraordinarily important; and adequate
4 health care and child care, and so forth. Many states have
5 improved their situation dramatically. There's only--an
6 example, our Welfare case-load has dropped by nine percent;
7 other states have an even higher drop. Our income for our
8 Welfare recipients has increased dramatically, because we've
9 gotten rid of the hundred-hour rule, and that has helped
10 folks go to work, who ordinarily found that Welfare is a
11 better way of making a living than going to work.
12
13

14 There has been a great, there's a great deal of
15 information in here about what other states have done. I'd
16 commend that to the governors for their involvement. And
17 thank you again Tommy, for allowing us to share some of the
18 things we've learned in Michigan and Vermont and other
19 places, in terms of trying to make families more self-
20 sufficient.
21

22 MR. CHAIRMAN:

23 Thank you very much Howard. And Howard said it best
24 when he said, "You know, this meeting, like all governors
25 meetings that we attend, we're always able to learn from one

1
2 another". And there hasn't been a governors organization
3 meeting that I have attended in the last ten years that I've
4 been Governor, that I have not taken away from that meeting,
5 some idea, or some program that I've learned from another
6 Governor, and I've taken it back to my home-state, and have
7 tried to implement it. Some successful, others not quite as
8 successful. But its always been a learning process, and one
9 in which we can--always will be able to continue to build
10 on. And that's what I wanted to accomplish with these
11 pamphlets, and programs of "Best Ideas", and I think that
12 you'll find them very helpful. And there's some great ideas
13 in here that you can take, and they're all at your finger
14 tips; and they're all compiled now, over five hundred new
15 programs and ideas that states have adopted in their states.
16 And we've taken the best ideas and put them together, and
17 you'll be able to utilize them back in your home-state, and
18 take credit for them.
19

20 Now I would like to call upon Governor John Rowland,
21 who is going to give you some remarks about the Business and
22 Environment Task Force Report. John.
23

24 GOVERNOR ROWLAND:

25 Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Let me also say, as

1
2 one of the new governors, I think I could probably represent
3 the viewpoints of the newer governors here this year. We
4 thank you for making our jobs so much easier. Rather than
5 going through the painful task of trial and error, we can
6 take advantage of the things that have worked, and things
7 that have not worked in other states. So for newer
8 governors, this product that's been produced during this
9 past year is a tremendous resource for us, and we sincerely
10 appreciate it.
11

12 Governor Raleigh and I headed-up the "Business and
13 Environment Task Force", and I would just like to take a few
14 quick seconds and touch on some of the conclusions that we
15 came upon.

16 First, let me say that we had a lot of great
17 proposals, and participation by the other governors was
18 extraordinary, and we appreciate that. The profiles that we
19 put together from all the states really came down to six
20 different categories: Number one, redeveloping "brown
21 fields"; number two, reducing red-tape; number three,
22 integrating economic development; number four, preserving
23 natural resources; number five, preventing pollution; and
24 number six, providing limited amnesty. I wont go into all
25

1
2 the categories. I'll merely say that what we've really come
3 into is kind of a good news, bad news scenario.

4 The bad news is, that for the last hundred years,
5 we've created, through the industrial revolution, and
6 through the contamination of many of our areas, the problem,
7 we've created on our own.

8 The other part of the bad news is that, we still feel
9 at the state level, that we're not getting the satisfaction
10 and the flexibility from the federal government that we'd
11 like to have to resolve the issues at the state level.

12
13 The good news however, is that the technologies that
14 have been developed are incredible. The engineering
15 professionals, some of the same groups, organizations,
16 corporations and businesses that have created the problems
17 in the last several decades, now are on the cutting-edge of
18 creating the solutions. So, the new technologies and the
19 engineering concepts that have been developed, have been
20 rather extraordinary, and that will help us move ahead.

21
22 The other good news scenario is, the partnerships that
23 have been created. Never before have we seen such
24 cooperation between our environmental officials and state
25 government and local government, and of course, the private

1
2 sector. So we see the problems that have been created; we've
3 found a whole host of ideas that we think will continue to
4 work. I want to thank the governors that participated and
5 ask them all to take some time to go through this, because
6 these solutions are very expensive to all of our states; and
7 we continue to call on the federal government to give us the
8 flexibility that we need to resolve the problems and to
9 allow us to use the most creative, most effective, most
10 efficient proposals that we can possibly find. And so I
11 think that you will see and hear more from our Task Force
12 over the next couple of years. Thank you very much Mr.
13 Chairman.
14

15 MR. CHAIRMAN:

16 Thank you John, and thank you for your hard work and
17 your leadership. I now would like to call upon Kurt Fordice
18 who was the Chair of the Task Force on "Job Creation", a
19 subject that's very near and dear to his heart, and one that
20 he's done very well in implementing in Mississippi. Kurt.
21

22 GOVERNOR FORDICE:

23 Thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your
24 leadership. You sure know how to pick people for the job,
25 because as you said, that is my favorite subject, and I

1
2 appreciate you assigning me to it. I appreciate you being
3 Chairman of the National Governor's Association. I've
4 enjoyed immensely working with you.

5 The beginning of the book, the introduction, says
6 that, "job creation cuts across the very breadth of
7 government functions, and indeed it does. Its completely
8 linked with education, we all know that. But, as I've said a
9 hundred times in my own state, education has such an inertia
10 to it that you can't wait on your improvements in education
11 to occur to go ahead and do economic development and job
12 creation. They have to go hand-in-hand. But they can't be
13 separated.
14

15 The infrastructure system is totally connected with
16 job creation; and as we move ahead, and in our state, very
17 rapidly with economic development, sometimes we get into the
18 position where the development is actually exceeding the
19 infrastructure that's needed to keep it going. The tax
20 system is involved in job creation.

21 The first essential, I believe, is to recognize that
22 the only way to create jobs is additional private Capital
23 invested. Sometimes we like to fool ourselves that
24 government creates jobs. I think government can only take.
25

1
2 It taxes and it takes away. But somehow, we've got to create
3 a business-friendly climate that will encourage private
4 Capital invested in each of our states so that jobs can be
5 created. And this book called, "Job Creation", this section
6 is just a wealth of ideas. If you fail to utilize this book,
7 you do so at your own peril, because there are ideas to be
8 stolen in there. We've stolen directly from Kentucky.

9
10 Now the Rural Economic Development scheme that
11 Kentucky has, and I'm not sure, Paul, that anybody that you
12 and I have at this moment, its very, very effective. And in
13 order to compete, we felt like we had to plagiarize that,
14 and that's what this book is all about, the recognition of
15 existing industry, which is very important in our state. We
16 want to retain the jobs that we've got; and we have programs
17 for recognizing those good people that are already in the
18 state. And particularly when we go overseas on trade
19 missions, we make it a point to visit with and express our
20 appreciation at the home offices of those foreign companies
21 that have invested in our state. There's a lot in here about
22 the very important subject of incentives that we've had much
23 debate about in NGA, and whether you like incentives or not,
24 they're out there. And if you're going to get your share of
25

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2 jobs, then you've got to be up to snuff on the incentives
3 that are being used by the competition. Enterprise zones and
4 all of the ideas for making it more attractive to invest in
5 one area than another is an extremely important subject
6 that's included in here. Because there's an immobility of
7 the work force; although our state is doing extremely well
8 overall.

9
10 We still have the endemic unemployment in the
11 Mississippi Delta that's been there, really, since the
12 mechanization of agriculture. And all the brilliant minds
13 that have been focused on that haven't been able to solve
14 it. And there are some good ideas in here for how to
15 concentrate into a particular area through enterprise zones.
16 Grants to colleges and universities to enhance the
17 particular companies that might be the best at creating
18 jobs.

19 All of these things are aids to business, to be
20 business-friendly instead of business unfriendly. Military
21 re-use, with the build-down that's going on, there are all
22 kinds of military facilities that can be brought into
23 economic development and job creation and of course,
24 international trade. We all know that the companies that
25

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2 export, have generally higher paying jobs, and therefore, we
3 should encourage them in every way. And on a foreign mission
4 you're interested in how are you going to export more, and
5 also attracting foreign investors. Its all in the book.

6 I would commend it to your reading; and if you don't,
7 somebody's going to get ahead of you on some of these ideas.
8 Thank you Mr. Chairman.

9
10 MR. CHAIRMAN:

11 Thank you Kurt. I appreciate that and all your hard
12 work and all the governors. Now when you ask your staff to
13 find out what other states are doing, NGA will have the
14 answer--you can have the answer right at your finger tips.
15 And NGA under the leadership of Governor Bob Miller, in the
16 future will also continue to update and make further
17 additions to this particular pamphlet on each one of those
18 subject areas. The reports can be copied; they can be
19 plagiarized, and they can be adapted by each governor, and
20 this is something that this organization has with the
21 enthusiastic support of the originating governors.

22
23 Every governor that's got ideas in there is asking you
24 to take them and use them and adapt them to your particular
25 state. Five hundred ideas that are already working to build

1
2 a better America. And each of your are to be congratulated
3 for your leadership in implementing these ideas. Copy away,
4 and please take the time to refer to these documents.
5 They've got a wealth of information and knowledge for your
6 use. We will not wait for Washington's okay. We seek their
7 partnership and a lot more trust. Most governors and many
8 others believe it is the governors that who are leading the
9 nation today in improving domestic programs. All of us, I
10 know, believe that, and I think we're correct in believing
11 that.
12

13 I deeply appreciate the bipartisan commitment of the
14 governors to bring about NGA legislative priorities. And I
15 am confident we will succeed. We now begin, ladies and
16 gentlemen, that portion of the program, with the adoption of
17 proposed policy positions. These policies were originally
18 sent to each governor on June 28th, and this package
19 reflects those policies, with amendments which were made by
20 the executive committee, and the standing committees had
21 their meetings yesterday. They require a two-thirds vote, of
22 those present and voting. We will take the policies in
23 alphabetical order by committee, with the executive
24 committee last. And will the committee Chairs please call
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2 for the vote, either individually or on blanks on the
3 proposals of each committee; and I would also ask each of
4 those Chairman to move the adoption of their policy
5 positions after they get done explaining them.

6 I'd like to first call upon Governor Steve Merrill who
7 is Chair of the Committee On Economic Development in
8 Commerce. And I would appreciate if Steve, if you would
9 summarize the resolutions that came in front of your
10 committee and the actions taken thereon.
11

12 GOVERNOR MERRILL:

13 Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to do that, and I want
14 to echo Governor Fordice's comments about your leadership.
15 It has been outstanding and its been a pleasure to work with
16 all of you. As the Chairman of the Committee on Economic
17 Development in Commerce, we met yesterday. We discussed the
18 transportation issues with the Chair of the House
19 Transportation Sub-Committee and the ranking member of the
20 House Transportation Sub-Committee. We then discussed
21 competition in telecommunications, which has effected all of
22 our states, and is perhaps, the most rapidly changing
23 developing and dynamic concept in our states in terms of
24 technology, and perhaps, in terms of our states themselves,
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2 because it will interrelate with Welfare Reform, Education
3 Reform, Long Distance Learning, and the Chair of the Federal
4 Communications Commission, Reed Hunt came and attended our
5 session.

6 We also talked about efforts of privatization, and
7 Governor Rowland articulated some of the changes that he has
8 made; and Governor Miller indicated some of the changes that
9 they have made in Nevada as well.

10 We approved a joint statement along with the Human
11 Resources Committee on improving state telecommunications
12 linkages that were sponsored by Governor Terry Branstad. And
13 Mr. Chairman, I would ask that Governor Branstad be
14 recognized to describe his statement to this group.

15
16 MR. CHAIRMAN:

17 Governor Terry Branstad is now recognized.

18 GOVERNOR BRANSTAD:

19 Thank you Governor Thompson. And I want to thank both
20 Governor Merrill and Governor Carper for their support in
21 approving this statement. Actually, it was approved by both
22 of those committees that they Chaired.

23
24 I just want to take a moment to invite you to join me
25 in trying to improve the linkages among our states in the

area of telecommunications.

Today, telecommunications offers new opportunities for us to share information like "Best Practices", and to coordinate our efforts on programs that require regional or national cooperation. It is my hope that during the coming year we can work together to realize more of the potential of this technology to improve our practices and learn from each other. There's one program that I would especially like to make you all aware of.

The National Guard is in the midst of developing a distributive training technology program. Their goal is to link National Guard Armories around the country to--and as a linking, these National Guard Armories around the country, to lower costs and increase the quality of the training programs.

The state of Iowa has already been able to do this as kind of a pilot project, and it's a very exciting thing having all of the National Guard Armories hooked-up to the fiber optics network. Because you will be asked to play a role in the development of this as the Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard in your state, the National Guard system in your state could be used to permit better access

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3 to public services in rural communities.

4 I think this is especially helpful to governors of
5 large states with many rural communities. As it is
6 developed, it might also provide a cost-effective means of
7 linking your telecommunications services together, or
8 linking them to programs in other states.

9 I intend to work with members of the Committee on
10 Economic Development, and the Committee on Human Resources
11 to explore options for better linkages. We'll meet with the
12 representatives of the National Guard and other groups,
13 public and private, concerned with fostering more effective
14 telecommunication links among the states. We'll focus on
15 reviewing needs and developing strategies for effective
16 partnerships, which would encourage cooperative use of
17 telecommunications. If you'd like to be part of this effort,
18 I would ask you to either contact me or my staff, or the
19 committee chairs, or staff of either of the two committees.
20

21 And Governor Merrill, thank you for giving me this
22 opportunity to share with all the governors the exciting
23 opportunities that are available in cooperation with the
24 National Guard in telecommunications.
25

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2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Thank you very much Governor Branstad. Thank you for
4 your leadership and telecommunications. You have done an
5 outstanding job in Iowa, and you continue to do so in this
6 Association. I thank you for it. And Steve, thank you so
7 very much for your report. Now will you make a motion on it,
8 or do you have some further things?

9
10 GOVERNOR MERRILL:

11 I will do that Mr. Chairman. The Committee on Economic
12 Development in Commerce wishes the National Governor's
13 Association to recognize its priorities. There are in
14 transportation and interconnecting our states with bridges
15 and highways, in telecommunications and interconnecting our
16 states in the most dynamic area that occurs in our states,
17 and in privatization. Sharing those points of view on how we
18 can bring the private sector into state government and make
19 it even more effective; therefore, we have developed a
20 policy on air transportation --pardon me-- We've developed a
21 resolution on surface transportation financing; we've
22 developed a policy on telecommunications, amending our
23 concerns about adequate radio spectrum capacity; for public
24 safety agencies; we have a new policy on privatization and a
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2 policy on employment security.

3 Mr. Chairman, the Committee adopted all of these
4 policies by unanimous vote, and therefore, I move their
5 adoption by this body, in mass.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN:

7 A motion has been made by Governor Merrill to adopt
8 all of those resolutions en mass. The motion has been made.
9 Is there a second? Seconded by Governor Allen.

10 Any further discussion of those subjects, either by
11 Governor Merrill or Governor Branstad? Carrying on, all
12 those in favor of that motion, signify by saying "I".
13

14 GOVERNORS:

15 I.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN:

17 Posed signify by saying "I". "I" have it, motion is
18 granted. Governor Merrill, we're going to miss you a great
19 deal after your decision not to run again. I was wondering,
20 maybe, before I turn to Governor Carper, you might want to
21 just discuss quickly with the body, the discussion you had
22 yesterday with the FCC Chairman who came in front of you and
23 indicated that there's a feeling from him anyway, that he
24 would like to give more power and authority back to the
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2 states, which was very gratifying to me, and I know to you
3 as well. You've worked very hard on this and I'm grateful
4 for that.

5 GOVERNOR MERRILL:

6 Its my pleasure Mr. Chairman. I must say to you that
7 the Chairman of the FCC, has traveled out of Washington D.C.
8 very rarely in the last couple of years, because under the
9 new Telecommunications Act, which is the first time in 62
10 years that we have upgraded our telecommunications industry
11 in this country; and the regulations which profoundly change
12 it, and will build for a different future, and entirely
13 different future for our nation as a result of this bill. He
14 has been attempting to meet the deadlines and the guidelines
15 established by the legislation, and they are enormous, and
16 they are of great concern to the states. Both in this public
17 comments and in his private comments to me after our
18 committee meeting, Chairman Hunt indicated that he truly
19 wanted the states to take a leadership role in establishing
20 the telecommunications boundaries of the future. He does not
21 want this to be a Washington-lead initiative.
22

23 And therefore, as you return to your states, I would
24 encourage you to get the telecommunications folks on your
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2 staffs involved with the FCC decision making, because we are
3 in a critical period of time. There will be decisions made
4 in the next two months that will effect your state for the
5 next two decades. And you want to be out in front in terms
6 of the Telecommunications Industry, because there are
7 dynamic changes.

8 One of the very quick examples, he found a
9 telecommunications up-link between three parts of a
10 university system that was costing nine thousand dollars a
11 quarter; and for all of the universities it was costing them
12 a total of ninety thousand dollars a year. The actual costs
13 of producing that product was about five dollars, because
14 all of the infrastructure was already in place. They were
15 simply charging a user fee for the upgrade of the
16 telecommunications. That has got to stop, and all of you can
17 be leaders in your states, because this is going to be state
18 driven, rather than Washington D.C. driven. Thank you Mr.
19 Chairman.
20

21 MR. CHAIRMAN:

22 Thank you for your report Governor Merrill. I
23 appreciate that very much. And now I would like to go to
24 Governor Tom Carper for the Committee on Human Resources.
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2
3 And Governor Carper is also going to report about the
4 discussions they had on the work force bill yesterday, and
5 some of the comments and some of the lobbying that he has
6 already done on our behalf in Washington. Tom, thank you
7 very much for your leadership.

8 GOVERNOR CARPER:

9
10 Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Let me just say, its
11 been a joy to have worked with you as our Chair for this
12 last year. And I cannot imagine a more difficult challenging
13 time to have served as Chair. But you have, and you have
14 served us all well, Democrats and Republicans alike. And
15 from the little state of Delaware, we salute you and thank
16 you for the great job that you've done.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN:

18 Coming from you Tom, I really appreciate that, because
19 you and I really didn't like each other, and I--

20 GOVERNOR CARPER:

21 Well, how about now?

22 MR. CHAIRMAN:

23
24 I really like you now Tom. That's what the NGA does,
25 it helps develop friendships.

1
2 GOVERNOR CARPER:

3 You notice he didn't even say, "Don't kiss me in
4 public"? My inclination is to take a minute or so and just
5 mention the policies that we worked on in Human Resources
6 Committee. And if its appropriate, to ask that they be moved
7 "on block".

8 MR. CHAIRMAN:

9 Sure.

10 GOVERNOR CARPER:

11
12 We have one resolution that Governor Rosselló worked
13 on yesterday and authored, --actually two days ago, on
14 forming a United Fund against drug abuse and drug related
15 crimes. We have fifteen policies here from a focus on
16 Elementary and Secondary Education, Head-Start, a
17 comprehensive program for reducing violent crime; a
18 governor's role in achieving national education goals.

19 Crime and delinquency prevention programs and
20 principles; combating and controlling substance abuse and
21 illegal drug trafficking; criminal justice information
22 systems, national strategy in prison crowding problems;
23 missing and exploited children; principals for the reform of
24 services for children, youth and families; prevention of
25

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2 teenage pregnancy; exemption of state and local electronic
3 benefit transfer systems from Regulation E. And I might just
4 mention on that one, that one deserves some discussion.

5 As many of us know, the Federal Reserve Board is
6 prepared to implement, I think next March, a regulation that
7 would put us at significant financial risk, if we're using
8 electronic benefit transfers for...for example for handling
9 "Cash Assistance Payment", Food Stamps, and other Federal
10 payments. These moneys, even if they're totally Federal
11 funds, to the extent that there's fraudulent use of...we'll
12 say a magnetic strip card that we might be using for Food
13 Stamps, We could stand to face costs to our states
14 collectively of close to a billion dollars, even though the
15 entire amount of money that's being transacted through the
16 use of electronic benefit transfer is Federal money.

17
18 We are strongly urging the Congress here to circumvent
19 the implementation of that regulation to the extent that
20 they don't and the regulation is imposed upon us. I think
21 what we're going to see is a real chilling effect on the use
22 of electronic benefit transfers in use of all fifty states.
23 So that's probably with respect to these policy recommenda-
24 tions, that may be the most important and timely one.
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2 Among the other three policy recommendations that we
3 have here is one dealing with Employment Security System
4 Policy; another dealing with forming a united front--and as
5 I said earlier, against drug abuse, and drug-related crimes.
6 We've got that one here twice, so that's I think, beginning
7 to go up to the top again, as it should; and finally the
8 resolution that I mentioned earlier, that Governor Rosselló
9 had worked on. If its appropriate--would it be appropriate
10 for me now to move these policies and resolutions "en-
11 block"?

12
13 MR. CHAIRMAN:

14 It certainly would, Governor Carper.

15 GOVERNOR CARPER:

16 I so move.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN:

18 Thank you very much. Governor Carper has moved all of
19 these resolutions "en mass" to be voted on as one. A motion
20 has been made, is there a second? Second made by Governor
21 Graves of Kansas. I would just like to thank you Tom for the
22 great leadership you've done on the committee, but also to
23 thank you on "Regulation E", that's very important. As I
24 understand it, we do have that taken care of in Washington
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2 on the Agriculture Bill. But we don't necessarily have it
3 completed on the Welfare Bill yet, is that correct?

4 GOVERNOR CARPER:

5 I believe that's correct.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN:

7 All those--any further discussions or questions to
8 Governor Carper? Carrying on, all those in favor of that
9 motion signify by saying "I", posed signify by saying "I".
10 "I" have it, the motion is granted.
11

12 Now I'm going to call upon Governor Carper to give us
13 all an update on a subject that very near and dear to all of
14 us, and very important, hopefully to get passed before
15 Congress adjourns, and that's on the "Work force Bill".

16 GOVERNOR CARPER:

17 We had some discussions, as you may recall, at the
18 Governor's only session; and at that time, we discussed the
19 fact while we weren't sure that Medicaid reforms were
20 enacted, we're hopeful that they were...we weren't positive
21 that Welfare Reform Initiatives would be enacted. We were
22 very hopeful that that would occur.
23

24 Last, when we met in Washington this past January and
25 February, we were absolutely sure that the Congress would

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2 act to consolidate over one hundred categorical grant
3 programs that are used for job-training called "Work force
4 Development", put them into a couple of "block grants" to
5 give us a great deal more flexibility to use those moneys in
6 order to prepare people for making the transition to work,
7 gainful employment.

8 The House and Senate have enacted last October, and
9 the Senate, I think, by only two dissenting votes; and the
10 House by a five to one margin. Very similar legislation on
11 "Work force Development" consolidating all these programs
12 and enhancing our flexibility appreciably. The bills have
13 language in conference... The conference finally got started
14 well into this year, and as we learned, that yesterday from
15 some of the staff of Senators in Washington, the House
16 Senate Conferees were prepared to meet today to report on a
17 Bill that looks a good deal different than apparently passed
18 the House and Senate last October; one that is sure to draw
19 a Filibuster from the Democrats in the Senate, and one if it
20 were to clear the House and Senate, would in all likelihood
21 be vetoed by the President, because it essentially pulls the
22 plug on school to work, and it does not provide for the kind
23 of implementation that the administration was looking for...
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2 among other things, the use of vouchers in our various
3 states.

4 I got on the phone last night to Senator Dash who I
5 know, Governor Voinovich, Governor Branstad; I believe
6 Governor Thompson reached out on the telephone to Senator
7 Lot, and maybe to Senator Catsenbaum* (phonetic). I'd be
8 pleased to share with all of you the gist of my conversation
9 with Senator Dash--

10
11 MR. CHAIRMAN:

12 Why don't you do that?

13 GOVERNOR CARPER:

14 --on, and I think its appropriate first to hear from
15 yourself sir, and other governors with respect to your
16 conversation.

17 I was urging him to call off the vote on Conference
18 Report, and he reminded me that as the Democrats are not in
19 majority now in either the House or the Senate, they're not
20 driving the vote on the Conference Support. He explained to
21 me that the Minority Party has not been involved to any
22 great extent in the work on the Conference Report. And
23 frankly, aren't all that sure what is in it. He indicated
24 that he felt this should have been a "no-brainier" for all
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2 of us. That we should have been able to--and it looked like
3 that last October, and as far as pulling back and seeing if
4 we still can't work something out along a bipartisan
5 approach, which we would like to do in this Association. He
6 was fully square behind that and would encourage us to do
7 that. And he has expressed a willingness to meet with a
8 group of us should be want to come to Washington within the
9 next week or so.

10
11 MR. CHAIRMAN:

12 I'd like to call on Governor Voinovich. Maybe you
13 would like to respond with our discussion with Senator Trent
14 Lot.

15 GOVERNOR VOINOVICH:

16 Yesterday, as you know, we were on the phone, as you
17 know, with Senator Lot, and indicated to him that we had
18 some grave concerns about the Conference Report, and the
19 fact that if it came out the way we had understood it was
20 going to come out, that it would be Filibustered, and if
21 passed, would be vetoed by the President, and that we would
22 like to sit down with him and the leaders in the Democratic
23 Party on a bipartisan basis to see if we couldn't salvage
24 this legislation that's so very, very important to us. And
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2 he indicated that he wasn't optimistic about it, but that
3 he thought it was worth while sitting down with us to see if
4 something could be worked out.

5 So I'm recommending that we get a group together, go
6 down, and spend some time with him. And as I mentioned to
7 Governor Carper, that I think we need to do this just to
8 protect ourselves, because these programs are already coming
9 apart in our respective states.

10 I know Ohio is very much involved in the "Jobs for
11 American Graduates Program", and because of the changes that
12 have occurred and less funding, that we had to come up and
13 find another eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars
14 because of what's happened in the JTPA area.

15 So I think that we need to convey to them how serious
16 the problem is for us; that we need the flexibility and do
17 the best we can to get him to do something.

18
19 MR. CHAIRMAN:

20 Thank you very much. Did you want to add anything
21 Terry? Yes, Governor Carper.

22 GOVERNOR CARPER:

23 My understanding, although I'm not absolutely sure
24 this was established yesterday... Is my understanding
25

correct, that they anticipated a scheduled meeting of the House/Senate conferees today to report out--to vote on the--

MR. CHAIRMAN:

It's my understanding that they were going to do it at five, at four or five o'clock this afternoon.

MR. CARPER:

My hope was that that would be delayed to the extent that they reported out, it makes our work all the more difficult.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

All the more difficult. Governor Carper, I think it would behoove this organization, and hopefully Chairman elect, Bob, and Vice Chair, George, could be able to pull together a group. Trent Lot was willing, from our conversation, to bring a group of the individuals that are very much involved in this proposal, into a room on a bipartisan basis. And I think its worth the effort, whether the Conference Committee Report is reported out or not, Tom, to go down there and meet with him, and just to see if we can come to some sort of bipartisan agreement.

Here is a classic example where we have individuals on the right, and individuals on the left, trying to disrupt

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3 good legislative policy that's going to impact on us.

4 You know, they're going to pass something, and we're
5 going to have to implement it with less money and with no
6 flexibility. And Democrats and Republican alike in this
7 organization are going to be hurt. And so anything we can do
8 to move this process forward, I think we should make that
9 effort.

10 And I'm willing to go with you Governor Carper, and
11 Governor Voinovich, and Governor Miller, if you want to put
12 together a group, and see if we can meet with the leadership
13 next week some time, and see if there's any chance to move
14 this. I think its important to do so and make the effort.

15
16 GOVERNOR CARPER:

17 The situation we find ourselves in as we as Governors
18 know is, we saw moneys cut, funding cut from ninety five--
19 5.2 billion dollars, to 4.6 billion in '96. We are looking
20 at further cuts in '97; and the worst of all worlds, less
21 money and no more flexibility. Could I direct a question,
22 just a short question to Governor Chiles?

23
24 MR. CHAIRMAN:

25 Governor Carper.

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2 GOVERNOR CARPER:

3 Governor Chiles, and I might even ask Governor Rowland
4 to--I'm going to ask to put your all Senate and Rep hats on
5 again, if you will. We face a situation where today at five
6 o'clock the House/Senate Conferees my meet to vote out the
7 Conference Report on this Work force Development stuff that
8 is going to be Filibustered in the Senate, probably never
9 get out of the Senate, and the legislation will die, where
10 we end-up with, as I said earlier, less money and no more
11 flexibility in putting together a Work force Development
12 Plan.
13

14 My recollection is if a Conference Report is reported
15 out by the Conferees, it gets a whole lot tougher for the
16 Conference to reconvene, and to change what they have done.
17 Am I mistaken or not? Governor Rowland?

18 MR. CHAIRMAN:

19 Governor Rowland.

20 GOVERNOR ROWLAND:

21 Let me first say, I'm not sure I'd want to put my
22 Congressional hat back on. And I'm sure former Senator
23 Chiles may agree. Tom, you're right, once it gets to that
24 point, as you may know, fewer and fewer people are involved
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2 in the decision-making process. So it really starts to
3 become a leadership issue where its imperative we get to
4 leadership on both sides of the aisle, to get them to
5 interact, because the opportunity to really have input with
6 the Conference Committee members becomes increasingly
7 difficult.

8 The former Committee members that were involved in
9 drafting legislation are pretty much out of the loop by the
10 time you get to that aspect of it. So I think it becomes
11 imperative that you get to the leadership and get their
12 attention, and work it from that angle.

13
14 MR. CHAIRMAN:

15 Senator Chiles, Governor Chiles,--I'm so sorry--.

16 GOVERNOR CHILES:

17 I don't think the Senate has changed. One person can
18 virtually stop anything in the Senate if it comes out. It
19 would take a vote to recommit it I think too. In the
20 meantime, you know, a simple objection and just you know,
21 would tie it up, given the time, closing time that you've
22 got, if somebody wants to conduct almost a one-man
23 filibuster, they can probably stop it. I think, again, I
24 would agree with Governor Rowland that leadership is going
25

1
2 to be awfully important to try to see that this doesn't
3 happen.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN:

5 But Governor Chiles, don't you believe its worth the
6 effort to try?

7 GOVERNOR CHILES:

8 Oh, absolutely, absolutely.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN:

10 I think a group of us should go there next week and
11 meet with them, even if its been reported out of the
12 Conference Committee. But I would also like to point out
13 that they were supposed to vote last week on Thursday
14 evening, and they decided against it. So maybe the same
15 wisdom will hold through today, considering that Trent Lot
16 has tried to get a hold of Nancy Castenbaum to her that we
17 wanted to come out and meet with them. Yes, Governor Chiles?

18 GOVERNOR CHILES:

19 The best of all things, Mr. Chairman, would be if the
20 differences could be resolved "in conference" you know,
21 because then it kind of comes out with some momentum.

22 GOVERNOR CARPER:

23 By the way, Mr. Chairman, when the bills come out of
24
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2 Conference Committees you know, and go to the full House and
3 the full Senate, my recollection is that it requires a vote
4 by the full House and a full Senate to recommit the bill to
5 Conference with instructions. And that just becomes a far
6 more difficult thing to do, and that's why I'm raising the
7 point.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN:

9
10 Another Congressman wants to be heard... He got
11 promoted to Governor. Governor Sundquist.

12 GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST:

13 Thank you Mr. Chairman. It seems that--did either of
14 you ask, either Senator Dash or Senator Lot to hold up the
15 report on the Conference Committee?

16 GOVERNOR CARPER:

17 I did.

18 GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST:

19 What did he say?

20 GOVERNOR CARPER:

21 He says its out of my hands.

22 GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST:

23
24 It seems to me that if you call, Tommy, that it might
25 be worth your calling Senator Lot and asking him to hold-up

1
2 the reporting out of the process. Because once its reported
3 out, its very difficult. If it was delayed last week,
4 there's not reason why it couldn't be delayed another week
5 on the basis that you want to come up there next week and
6 visit about it. So I think that, I'd recommend that.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN:

8 I think probably Governor Castenbaum--Nancy
9 Castenbaum, who has been doing a wonderful job of leading
10 this effort, would probably be better if she's the one
11 that's --wants to try and get the Conference with they
12 also-- So, I will call her, and maybe if you call Trent,
13 George again, and just tell him that. Thank you. Now we're
14 going on to Natural Resources Committee, and I want to thank
15 Governor Branstad for substituting for the Chairman, who
16 couldn't be here. And thank him for the great work he did in
17 the Committee yesterday. Governor Branstad.

18
19 GOVERNOR BRANSTAD:

20 Thank you very much Governor Thompson.

21 The Committee on Natural Resources met yesterday, and
22 because neither Governor Symington, nor Governor Nelson
23 could be here, I stepped in. And I just want to say, my
24 friend and neighbor, Governor Nelson has worked very hard
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2 throughout the year in helping build a bipartisan consensus
3 and working with the staff of all the governors on the
4 committee. I'm pleased to say, and some very difficult,
5 contentious issues that was worked out yesterday, and we
6 have four policies and we have two suspensions that I
7 understand will be taken up later.

8 I'm going to just mention the suspensions and then I
9 will go through the policies, and move the policies. The
10 suspensions involved a resolution on meat and poultry
11 inspection to be considered, and this has to do with state
12 inspections, which must meet equal requirements of the USDA,
13 but unfortunately, because Federal Law prohibits interstate
14 shipment of these products, its hurting many of our small
15 processors. And this was actually offered by Governor
16 Thompson.
17

18 A second policy has to do with crop insurance. As you
19 know, we've seen a major change in Federal Farm Programs
20 that have eliminated a lot of the risk management in the
21 farm program, and instead, left that to the farmer, and crop
22 insurance. This policy is designed to try to perfect and try
23 to improve on the crop insurance programs, so farmers can do
24 a better job protecting themselves against natural
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2 disasters. Those two will come up on suspension.

3 The four that were worked out yesterday, involved
4 updating and reenacting out policy on water resource
5 management; updating and improving our policy on Endangered
6 Species Act; and also on the issue of global climate change;
7 and finally, a policy to amend our Environmental Self-Audits
8 and to provide for implementation flexibility. I want to
9 thank everybody for their good work on this. And, Mr.
10 Chairman, I would move that these four policies be approved.

11
12 MR. CHAIRMAN:

13 Thank you so very much Governor Branstad. The move by
14 Governor Branstad, seconded by Howard Dean. I would like to
15 thank both governors Branstad and Howard Dean, and the staff
16 and other individuals who worked on these policies. There
17 was some degree of controversy at the beginning of the
18 session, and they worked out their differences and in good
19 bipartisan NGA fashion. And I want to thank all those people
20 involved; they came together and reached an agreement on
21 global warming, on audits and clean air and so on. So you
22 should be commended for the job you did. And I thank you
23 personally.
24

25 Any discussion of the policies that are being put

1
2 forth by the Natural Resources Committee, by the acting
3 Chair, Terry Branstad? Any further questions, discussions
4 or any comments? Hearing none, all those in favor of that
5 motion, signify by saying "I". Posed, signify bay saying
6 "I". The "I" have it. The motion is adopted.

7
8 We have three more minutes before Bob Dole is ready to
9 speak, and I'd like to call him before we get the Executive
10 Committee, which we have some discussion on a couple of
11 policies.

12 I would call upon Governor Voinovich to give us a
13 report on "Mandates". George?

14 GOVERNOR VOINOVICH:

15 Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we always wonder
16 about is that we get legislation passed, and is it going to
17 do what we expect it to do. And I'm pleased to report today
18 that the Unfunded Mandates legislation is working out as we
19 had hoped. As you recall, it requires the Congressional
20 Budget Office to give cost estimates with a point of order
21 against new mandates costing over fifty million...agency
22 cost benefit analysis of new regulations that cost over one
23 hundred million. And the CBO is doing an outstanding job.

24 They've completed a hundred and eighty six cost
25

1
2 estimates that effect state and local governments, and two
3 hundred that effect business on legislation reported by
4 Congressional committees. They have helped us in the area of
5 telecommunications, immigration, cross border, speed limits,
6 Medicaid Born Amendment, Indian Gaming Commission,
7 Occupational and Safety in Health. And the only one where we
8 didn't get help, was on minimum wage.
9

10 They did the analysis, but Congress overruled the
11 point of order, and probably did so, because state and local
12 governments did not lobby against the change in the minimum
13 wage. So things are working out very well, and we need to
14 continue to monitor CBO That's the good news.

15 The bad news is, that ACIR was supposed to come back
16 with a recommendation on other mandates that needed to be
17 undertaken by Congress, in order to relieve us of
18 unnecessary cost and unnecessary red tape, and it appears
19 that that report may not be issued. And I would like to
20 suggest that in the event that the ACIR Report does not come
21 out in terms of those "Unfunded Mandates", that Congress
22 should immediately address that this organization join with
23 the state and local government commission and issue a
24 report from the state and local government commission on
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1
2 those mandates that we agree need to be addressed by
3 Congress.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN:

5 Thank you so very much, Governor Voinovich, for your
6 hard work on that, as well as on the Safe Drinking Water.
7 We're deeply indebted for your persistence and your
8 leadership on both issues. And thank you for your update on
9 mandates.

10
11 Now I would like to go to the Executive Committee
12 Report, and Executive Committee Policies. I believe there's
13 going to be an amendment on the Health Policy, by Governor
14 Romer. But before we get to the amendment, I'm going to call
15 upon my wonderful Vice-Chairman, Governor Bob Miller for a
16 motion and for Governor Voinovich to second that; and the
17 Executive Committee is on your pamphlet, and the first one
18 is Governor Miller.

19 GOVERNOR MILLER:

20 There are four proposed changes in policy; Managed
21 Care and Health Care Reform, which we will receive the
22 amendment
23 on in a minute, that's on page three of the purple-faced
24 handout. Then implementing the policy statement adopted at
25

1 the 1996 National Education Summit, that we discussed
2 extensively in our first governors only session, that's on
3 page five. The effect of the Seminole decision on Agrarian
4 Implementation, and then the Gaming Regulatory Act, that's
5 on page eight; and renewal--we've titled it, "The Most
6 Favored Nations Status", for the Peoples Republic of China.
7 But I believe Governor Branstad brought up its standard
8 trade agreement. We're doing it ourselves, titling
9 that...We've got to re-title it ourselves to be just
10 "Standard Trade Agreement for The Peoples Republic of China.
11 Those are the four submitted, and I recommend that all four
12 be passed.
13
14

15 MR. CHAIRMAN:

16 Motion by Governor Miller to approve the four policies
17 of the Executive Committee "en mass", and seconded by
18 Governor Voinovich of Ohio. Governor Branstad, I don't know
19 if you heard the editorial comment by Governor Miller. But I
20 think it would behoove you to move on the "Most Favored
21 Nation Status", a more correct statement as to what that
22 policy should really reflect, which is the same kind of
23 tracing policy as all the nations get. Maybe you can think
24 about that while I call on Governor Romer.
25

1
2 GOVERNOR BRANSTAD:

3 You want me to do that now?

4 MR. CHAIRMAN:

5 Well, as soon as I get done with Governor Romer and
6 other matters. I just wanted you to think about that,
7 Governor Branstad. Governor Romer.

8 GOVERNOR ROMER:

9 I'd like to offer an amendment to the Health Care
10 Policy, and it is on page four of the --whatever that color
11 is, purple--
12

13 MR. CHAIRMAN:

14 Purple I believe.

15 GOVERNOR ROMER:

16 --and let me explain, this is a one-pager that's been
17 passed out. What happened here is that there was a
18 discussion among a number of health care providers and some
19 governors staff about the last paragraph of this policy. And
20 in an attempt to try to find some language that bridged the
21 various opinions, this language was added and I read those
22 two sentences, it says, "Governors acknowledge the
23 legitimate role of state governments to assure access,
24 quality, and consumer protection". You'll notice that
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2 differs from the original, and I think it included state and
3 federal. So that was one of the compromises; the second
4 sentence it says, "At the same time, governors support a
5 legal framework in which health plans can organize delivery
6 systems to improve quality control and costs". You'll
7 obviously notice the compromise language. The first sentence
8 says, "We've got a right to legislate". The second sentence
9 says, "Health Care organizations need to be able to deal
10 with their own contracting".
11

12 That is compromise language and the paragraph above is
13 just to add another bullet in the prior page. I offer it in
14 the nature of compromise. I know there are some other
15 governors who had some feelings about this, that didn't
16 quite get included, and I'm sympathetic to that. I have some
17 feelings about it also. But I offer this amendment simply
18 because it was a negotiated compromise by some staff and
19 some health organizations that are at this conference.
20

21 MR. CHAIRMAN:

22 Thank you Governor Romer, your move is--and I believe
23 Governor Sundquist was working on that. Do you want to
24 second that and make a comment Don? Did you want to second
25 the amendment? Do you agree with the amendment?

1
2 GOVERNOR SUNDQUIST:

3 I will second it.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN:

5 The amendment was seconded. Any discussion of the
6 amendment put forth by Governor Romer on the Managed Care
7 and Health Policy of the Executive Committee? Governor Dean,
8 did you want--

9 GOVERNOR DEAN:

10 No.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN:

12 All those in favor of adopting the amendment to that
13 policy on Managed Care and Health Care, which has been
14 articulated by Governor Romer. No discussion. All those in
15 favor of that amendment, signify by saying, "I". Posed
16 signify by saying, "I". The "I" have it, the motion on the
17 amendment is adopted. Governor Romer.

18 GOVERNOR ROMER:

19 I want to make and apologize--an apology to Senator
20 Sundquist. I think in the course of this, we did not fully
21 get some of his ideas in this mix at an early enough time.
22 And I just want to say, I'm concerned about that. Its a
23 process question.
24
25

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2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Thank you very much for both of you being such
4 gentlemen about this thing, and working it out in bipartisan
5 fashion. I appreciate that. Thank you Don, and we'll get the
6 changes, hopefully, that you wanted to make in the February
7 meeting.

8 Terry, did you want to make that amendment that I
9 think would more accurately reflect what we're trying to do
10 in international trade.

11
12 GOVERNOR BRANSTAD:

13 Governor Thompson, thank you very much. The point that
14 I raised yesterday at the time of the presentation was, that
15 when you use the term, "Most favored nations status", the
16 public gets the impression that you're giving some kind of
17 special treatment, when in fact, all that really means is,
18 basically normal trade relations. And so I would move that
19 instead of using the term "most favored nation status", we
20 would use the term, "normal trade relations". Especially as
21 we're talking about trade relations with the Peoples
22 Republic of China, which is the largest nation in the world,
23 and has a growing economy. And I believe that if the public
24 understands that we're talking about normal trade relations,
25

not some kind of privileged status, that it will facilitate maintaining good relations and increasing our export opportunities in that part of the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much Governor Branstad. Governor Branstad makes a motion to substitute normal trading relations for "Most favor nation status" for the Peoples Republic of China, which I think more accurately describes what this organization is all about, and what this organization talked about yesterday with Laura Tyson, and Carla Hills. A second to that motion is seconded by Governor Steve Merrill. Any discussion? Carrying on, all of those in favor of that amendment to the "Most favored nation status" resolution, signify by saying "I". Posed, signify by saying "I". The "I" have it. The motion is granted.

Now I will call upon Governor George Allen who wants to make a statement on the Educational entity. Governor Allen from Virginia.

GOVERNOR ALLEN:

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and fellow governors. On the EC-22, the implementing of the Policy Statement concerning the National Education Entity, I want to thank the Chairman

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2 and the members of the committee for working with me on the
3 many amendments that I had submitted, as well as the help of
4 Governor Sundquist, and Governor Beasley on other amendments
5 to this.

6 I think there is some concern on the part of those who
7 are following this, as to what this entity will do. And I
8 think it can be a helpful clearing house, and with these
9 amendments it is clear that the objectives will be that, as
10 far as educational standards, they'll be on core academic
11 subjects, the standard should be clear and understandable,
12 and of course, measurable. Many governors, including myself
13 have worked to make sure that we improve our standards of
14 learning in our states, as well as then not just look at how
15 much money is being spent, but whether our children are
16 really these subjects. And I would like to point out certain
17 things, and I think its important, Mr. Chairman, for the
18 record, that some of--what these amendments do, first it
19 makes sure that this entity will not endorse, develop, or
20 financially support the development of national education
21 standards.
22

23 These will be voluntary efforts on the part of the
24 states; the entity will be focused on these core academic
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2 areas and not get off on detours; it will be, of course,
3 evaluated, because its time-limited to the 1998 annual
4 meeting. Also, we will not being certified as to our
5 standards, or the amount of funding expenditures, which was
6 Governor Sundquist's amendment.

7
8 And finally, the amendment from Governor Beasley,
9 whereby the policy and implementing all this, whatever the
10 governing committee is called. The requirements that you
11 need a majority of the governors and a majority of the six
12 business leaders, and the six governors. I consider that a
13 matter "Sonian", sort of a check and balance approach. Being
14 from Virginia... from South Carolina.

15 Now it is referenced here, we're referencing the
16 Planning Committee, and unless there is some objection, and
17 I think it is the interpretation and understanding of the
18 governors, that these parameters or focus, whether its the
19 Planning Committee, or whether the governing committee may
20 be, that these same requirements of the majority of the
21 governors voting, whatever you call it, and a majority of
22 the business leaders, and all the other aspects as far as
23 voluntariness, core academic subjects, objectivity, no
24 national standards, all of that applies to whatever the
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2 organizational structure is at that time. And I think that
3 is the understanding. I just want to make sure, that's for
4 the record, and for those reasons. And thanking Governor
5 Romer, I know this will stun folks, but thank you for
6 working with us, Governor Engler, Governor Thompson, we may
7 have gone a little bit too far.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN:

9
10 Well, we'll find something to argue with in the
11 hallway. But, nevertheless, thank you for accepting.

12 GOVERNOR ALLEN:

13 I want to thank Governor Voinovich for standing firm
14 with us on this as well. So with that, I just wanted to make
15 those comments for the record, as it is a sensitive
16 procedure.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN:

18 Thank so very much Governor Allen. Thank you for your
19 cooperation, and I would like to thank all the governors who
20 were at the discussion that took place on Sunday afternoon
21 for several hours, and we worked it through, and we came out
22 of there, I think, stronger and better, and I think the
23 entity is better off. And I also would like to report to all
24 the governors that Lou Gerstner called me yesterday from
25

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2 I.B.M. and he got a report back from Stan Little, and he was
3 very pleased with the amendments and what took place the
4 action, and he said congratulations, and he asked me to
5 extend congratulations to all the governors on his behalf
6 for this educational entity, which has been worked on
7 through the Educational Summit and for several months. With
8 that, all of the resolutions and the Executive Committee
9 have been moved "en mass" and the motion has been made and
10 seconded with the amendments made by Governor Branstad and
11 Governor Romer.
12

13 Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in
14 favor of that motion, signify by saying "I". Posed, signify
15 by pay "I". The "I" have it, motion is granted. The
16 Executive Committee Resolutions have been adopted. I now
17 would like to--

18 GOVERNOR DEAN:

19 Mr. Chairman, I would just like the record to show
20 that--

21 MR. CHAIRMAN:

22 Yes, Governor Dean.

23 GOVERNOR DEAN:

24 If the record would just show that I voted "no" on the
25

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2 "Most Favored Nation Status Resolution". Thank you.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN:

4 The record will show that Governor Dean voted "No" on
5 the "Most Favored Nation Status" of China.

6 I now would...Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my
7 distinct privilege to be able to introduce one of our main
8 speakers here this morning. National leaders have also known
9 and appreciated the vital role of governors in American
10 government, Bob Dole, is one of those leaders. He's always
11 been a strong supporter of states in the federal system, and
12 particularly, the tenth amendment to the Constitution. He's
13 also been a good friend of the National Governor's
14 Association. He has met with us repeatedly at our winter and
15 annual meetings over the years. He has also been available
16 to me with the NGA Executive Committee on a timely basis on
17 critical issues. As Majority Leader of the 104th Congress,
18 he opened that session with an NGA Bill, Senate Bill one.
19 The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995, he was key to
20 having this important legislation enacted into law.
21

22 I personally want to thank him for allowing us as
23 governors, to come into his office and meet with him on many
24 occasions on pending legislation. Bob Dole has firmly
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2 established his leadership, his character and integrity as
3 well as his determination to preserve a strong partnership
4 with the states. We appreciate Bob, your long-term
5 friendship, and we look forward to hearing from you today.
6 Welcome to the 88th National Governor's Association Meeting.

7 MR. BOB DOLE:

8 Governor Thompson, thank you very much. I wish I could
9 be there with you, but we're getting ready to move out of
10 the Mid West. There are so many people in the room that I've
11 watched on CSPAN that I've turned to over the years for
12 advise and encouragement, and I've worked with many of you
13 from both parties, both sides of the aisle, and no one has
14 more respect for your achievement. You have seized the
15 initiative from the Federal Government, and built a record
16 of accomplishment. And I will be meeting with some of you, I
17 hope later on this week I'll be in Wisconsin and Minnesota
18 and Ohio and Michigan. And I know for a fact that you know,
19 I'm now Citizen Dole. I'm not a member of the legislature,
20 I'm in the private sector. And I have just as much respect
21 for governors as I had then, because you make it happen.
22 America's governors are breaking the Welfare cycle with
23 time-limits and work requirements. You are challenging
24
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2 educational mediocrity of the school choice and achievement
3 testing. You are bringing efficiency to Medicaid and
4 returning sanity and compassion to the maze of child welfare
5 programs. And you are finding innovative ways to preserve
6 our water and air without counter productive federal
7 meddling. And states are now cleaning up twenty times more
8 contaminated sights than the federal government under "Super
9 Fund". And I know the focus of this years conference is
10 Juvenile Crime and Drugs. And these are the big issues of
11 American life.
12

13 The safety of our people, and the character of our
14 children. They concern not just the wealth of our nation,
15 but its meaning. They put our energy and ideals to the test.
16 Juvenile crime is a hurricane just off our shore. And
17 already we see the leading edge of mindless violence. And
18 kids that once stole hubcaps now rape and murder, no fear of
19 punishment, no respect for life, no guilt, and no mercy.

20 Experts call them "Super predators", and we're told
21 that each generation is three times as violent as the one
22 before. Thirty five percent, as everybody there knows,
23 thirty five percent of all violent crime, is now committed
24 by criminals under the age of twenty. And I think the
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2 response of our society must be rock-solid resolution--
3 bipartisan, if you please. We cannot flinch, we cannot
4 compromise with chaos, and as President I will work for the
5 states to fight a real war, not just a way of rhetoric
6 against juvenile crime. And I know this is primarily a state
7 responsibility, but violent teen predators should be
8 prosecuted and sentenced as adults. They should not be
9 automatically released at the age of eighteen or twenty.
10

11 The records of violent juvenile criminals should not
12 be erased when they become adults. They should be made
13 available to the public on the same terms as adult
14 offenders. And that record through an instant check should
15 prevent them from buying a gun for the rest of their lives.

16 Now these measures are important for what they will
17 achieve. But they are also important for what they affirm
18 about our society. We are a nation in which liberty is
19 ordered by law. We are a nation able to defend its standards
20 and keep its word. But this cannot be all, we say. Because
21 each of these killers, just a few years before, was a child
22 desperately searching for an adult to guide and love them.
23

24 We are forced to ask some deeper questions, and I know
25 you have all done this, because you all understand it as

1
2 well or better than I do. How is it that dreams die before
3 life has even begun? How can hearts so young become so hard?
4 What does it say about a country that is afraid of its
5 children. And we know where the explanation starts...In the
6 failure of families has left a moral and spiritual vacuum at
7 the core of children's lives. A moral compass is always a
8 gift to the caring adult. And families transmit values that
9 can defeat violence. In the long run, the best anti crime
10 program is the renewal of family life in America. This means
11 we must transform a Welfare system that undermines marriage,
12 and encourages illegitimacy. This means we must use our
13 bully pulpits to demand a popular culture free from casual
14 brutality; a culture that preserves a safe harbor in
15 childhood; and this means we must applaud and encourage the
16 return of men to their responsibilities as fathers. And this
17 means that we must find creative ways when families fail to
18 reintroduce mentors and models into the lives of young
19 children, coaches, teachers, clergy, big brothers, and big
20 sisters.
21

22 Drugs are a companion crisis, fracturing families and
23 contributing to crime. And here the source of frustration is
24 not only the problem itself, but the gains we have
25

squandered, the ground we have needlessly lost. In the 1980's a top bipartisan universal anti-drug effort to cut drug use at the lowest level in decades, and it worked.

Yet most of this hard won progress has been reversed in the short span of about three years, because here are the records. They are not my records, they are the records. Since 1992 Marijuana use among thirteen and fourteen years old has soared a hundred and forty five percent; LSD among high school seniors has doubled; overall drug use among youth grows over fifty percent in just 1993 and 1994.

Now on the issue of drugs, progress can never be permanent, because every student reaching the age of tough choices must be taught to say "no". The battle must be renewed with every academic year. Even thirty six months of mixed messages, as we have seen, can leave children vulnerable to forces that can destroy their future or end their lives in many, many cases. And I don't want to be particularly partisan, but again its a fact. From this administration we have heard both condemnation and legalization, but mostly we have heard silence.

Now we can expect the rippling effects of rising drug abuse. The decline of education and productivity; the rise

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2 proposals, as you know, are so heavily modified that they
3 barely resemble the original. And some states have been so
4 frustrated they have simply withdrawn them. Waivers are
5 still required for programs that have already proven
6 successful in other states. Thirty day approval has proven
7 to be an empty pledge.

8
9 Now let me give you an up-to-the-minute example. After
10 several promises to sign a waiver to approve Wisconsin's
11 Work Welfare Reform, the President sort of backed off and
12 back-tracked, because now we hear once again, yesterday,
13 that there will be a delay in its approval. And it just
14 seems to me, and again, I'm just trying to be objective,
15 because there are Democrats and Republic governors who
16 worked on these programs. These delays must end. This is not
17 a debate about ideology.

18
19 These reforms are approved in each state by
20 legislators and governors of both parties. They are shining
21 proof of bipartisanship.

22
23 I think the problem is one of attitude. The attitude
24 in America must beg for approval from Washington. The
25 attitude that states are just waiting to betray their own
people, in what someone referred to as a race to the bottom.

1
2 in health costs and crime rates; the spread of teen
3 pregnancies and AIDS. The expansion of poverty and
4 homelessness. Both drugs and juvenile crime contribute to a
5 feeling shared by about seventy percent of Americans, that
6 our nation is on the wrong track; that we are drifting
7 toward danger and decay.

8 We know our nation has great resources and innovation,
9 charity and renewal. We see it in every state and in every
10 community. We have seen it overcome hazards and hardships in
11 the past. But just when our need is greatest our federal
12 government seems paralyzed by old rules and old thinking and
13 old habits of control. It shows no sense of urgency; it
14 seems content with inertia. And I think our system of
15 federal waivers is a symbol of this problem. And I know that
16 a year ago, because I had the pleasure of speaking also, the
17 President was there, did a good job, made a good speech, and
18 he also promised Welfare waivers from that moment on would
19 be granted in thirty days. But now we have the figures. The
20 average waiver takes about two hundred and ten days; some
21 take over four hundred days. As of last month the
22 administration was sitting on a least twenty eight
23 applications from seventeen states. And some waiver
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2 The stakes are high. Will states have the flexibility to
3 confront dependence and family break-down, and crime; will
4 we encourage major reforms of Education, Welfare and
5 Criminal Justice in the states. And we should not be trying
6 to create a more efficient version of a system that has
7 failed, and that's the point I want to make. If it has
8 failed, you've got to junk it.

9
10 As Tommy Thompson mentioned, I carry around this
11 little copy of the tenth amendment, it's not a Democratic
12 amendment or a Republican amendment, its been around a
13 couple hundred years, its number ten, part of the Bill of
14 Rights, amendment number ten...twenty eight words and it
15 simply states, "That unless the Federal Constitution gives
16 the powers specifically to the Federal Government or denies
17 it to the states of Wisconsin or Nevada, Governor Miller,
18 then it belongs to the states and belongs to the people".

19
20 Our founding fathers, who I think had a great deal of
21 wisdom, thought, over two hundred years ago, they were
22 concerned about a concentration of power in the central
23 government. They wanted power to stay in the hands of the
24 states where possible, and in the hands of the people. And
25 so why do we--let's not try to keep on improving a failed

1
2 system. Our states deserve freedom, not just waivers. You
3 must be given power, power, not just permission.

4 Our problems are too urgent for inertia. And
5 Federalism is not only a tradition of our Constitution, it
6 is the source of energy and creativity our nation needs at
7 this moment. And so I would say to the President--we get
8 along fine, we're both on sort of different programs last
9 night, and both had good things to say about each other from
10 a personal standpoint. We don't agree philosophically on
11 many things. But we can still be friends in the sense that
12 we do speak to each other and have worked with each other.
13 And I hope that Congress will pass a tough Welfare Reform
14 Bill. Not just any Welfare Reform Bill. And I challenge the
15 President to finally sign a Welfare Bill and make those
16 waivers a thing of the past. I wish we had the bill that
17 passed the Senate by a vote of 87 to 12 when I was the
18 Majority Leader, 87 to 12. Fifty four I think, fifty three
19 Republicans and thirty some Democrats--bipartisan, a good
20 strong Welfare Reform Bill, but the President vetoed it. So
21 I would again say to the President, he's going to speak, I
22 understand, following my remarks. Give the states the
23 power and authority to chart their own paths from dependence
24
25

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2 to hope. And I think there are goals that Republicans and
3 Democrats can share. We must confront the forces of chaos;
4 and we must strengthen the sources of hope, families,
5 communities and neighborhoods. We need a federal government
6 that embraces a diversity of your reforms. We need a federal
7 government that trusts your compassion and your confidence.
8 And let me just pause here if I can, for a second.
9

10 I remember Governor Thompson, whose been one of the
11 leaders in Welfare Reform, as many others have in the
12 audience there, speaking to a group of Republicans one day,
13 in my Majority Leaders office. And somehow Republicans are
14 difficulty turning loose, because the government had the
15 controls so long they wanted to keep the entitlement, they
16 wanted to do this, they wanted a maintenance effort which is
17 probably all right, but it was much too high at the time.

18 I remember what Governor Thompson said to them, in
19 think, in a moment of frustration, he said, "Who do you
20 think I am. I get elected by the same people you do. Nobody
21 is going to go without medical care in the state of
22 Wisconsin. Nobody is going to go without food in Wisconsin;
23 nobody is going to be left out in the state of Wisconsin, as
24 long as I'm Governor of that state, and I think I can speak
25

1
2 for any succeeding government". So I've always felt that
3 governors were closer, closer to the people, they better
4 understood the problems, legislators in both parties are
5 closer to the people, and this is a clear case where I think
6 the tenth amendment ought to apply. We ought to send this
7 back to the states. And I think the federal government
8 understand and encourages a vast a untapped promise and
9 energy and the wisdom of American life, we'll make it work.
10 So I would just say finally, I again, as a private citizen,
11 appreciate your kind invitation.
12

13 Thank all of you for what you do on a daily basis to
14 renew this country. And I know this is--we're in the
15 political season, and I know its difficult for some to
16 understand that we can do anything in a nonpartisan or
17 bipartisan way. But I believe there is still time, if we all
18 agree and all have pretty much the same goal. We don't want
19 watered-down Welfare Programs going back to the states that
20 will have to be corrected next year, and the next year, and
21 the next year. We want to give you the opportunity you
22 deserve; we want to give you the opportunity your
23 constituents deserve, that's what its really all about. Its
24 not about Bob Dole, or President Clinton, or governors, its
25

1
2 about the people we serve, and we care, and we are
3 compassionate, and we do reach out to people in both
4 parties. So let's move ahead. Let's put the tenth amendment
5 to work.

6 In addition to Welfare, let's send Medicaid back to
7 the states. Let's give the governors, the legislators this
8 opportunity, this challenge that I'm certain everyone in
9 that room will be able to meet. Thanks again. Thanks for
10 letting me speak. God Bless America. Hope to see you all
11 soon. (Applause) Thank you very much.

12
13 MR. CHAIRMAN:

14 Thank you very much Bob. We appreciate your comments,
15 we appreciated your willingness and your partnership to work
16 with governors. We're sad that your not with us personally,
17 but we certainly appreciate your taking time out of your
18 busy schedule to be here by the teleconferencing, video
19 conferencing that you are with us today. And as you can
20 tell, your comments were well appreciated.

21 MR. BOB DOLE:

22 If there's anybody there interested in running for
23 Vice President, will pick up their resumes? I'll see you
24 soon governor.
25

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 All of a sudden ten governors left the room. I don't
4 know. We no longer have a quorum. I would like to--we have
5 suspension rules. President Clinton is going to be with us
6 relatively shortly, so please don't leave. I'd like to go to
7 the suspensions. We have suspensions on Farm and
8 Agricultural Policy Meat and Poultry Inspection; and the
9 Safe Drinking Water Act; Violence Against Women, offered by
10 Governor Dean; Welfare Reform, offered by Governors Carper
11 and Governor Engler.
12

13 And I'd like to have a motion to suspend the Rules
14 which require three quarters vote. Governor Branstad said
15 moved, seconded by Governor Voinovich, and I would call
16 upon--I believe Governor Dean you wanted to speak on your
17 resolution? Governor Dean.
18

19 GOVERNOR DEAN:

20 Thank you Mr. Chairman. I offer this on behalf of the
21 number of women's, the violence against women projects
22 around the country. Just to talk about my own state, every
23 single one of our female homicide victims in 1993 and 1994,
24 every single one of them died at the hands of partners or
25 family members. Every one of our Vermont network programs

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2 maintains a twenty four hour hotline staff, with on-call
3 volunteer staff positions. This occurs also in many of the
4 other states as well. Services are provided with ninety one
5 percent volunteer work force. That also is very typical of
6 what goes on. What the resolution simply does is, its on
7 page eight of the pink packet, and all the resolution does
8 simply is reaffirm our support for the programs that we have
9 against violence against women; to reaffirm our requests to
10 the federal government to support us in whatever way they
11 can; and reaffirm our support for the Violence Against Women
12 Act. And I appreciate being recognized, and hope that this
13 will be adopted.
14

15 MR. CHAIRMAN:

16 Thank you very much for your hard work on that,
17 Governor Dean. Governor Carper has worked extremely hard
18 with Governor Engler and both of those individuals should be
19 complemented for the job they've done in trying to get
20 Welfare Reform passed, and since both candidate Bob Dole,
21 and I believe President Clinton will be talking about it, I
22 think its very timely, Governor Carper, if you would give us
23 an update on the Welfare Reform Resolution that you have in
24 front of us. Governor Carper.
25

GOVERNOR CARPER:

Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, as we all know, the likelihood of Welfare Reform actually being enacted is I think, enhanced last week with the decision by the Republican leadership in the Congress to separate Welfare Reform and Medicaid. We, Governor Engler and I, have worked with our staffs, and with Susan Glock*(phonetic) and Richard Buck of the NGA, to craft a resolution with respect to Welfare Reform. The thrust of it is, and both Governor Engler and I submit this to you for your consideration.

The trust of this is to reaffirm the policy we adopted as governors on Welfare Reform unanimously in February of this year. Put a special focus on the work participation rates that were contained in HR-4 the Conference Agreement, we encourage the House and Senate to go back to those work participation rates, they were reflected by the way, in the policy that we adopted. One of the governors asked me about maintenance of effort, and if you'll recall, in our original Welfare Reform Proposal of last February, we set a seventy five percent maintenance effort, that is again reaffirmed in this policy. With that in mind, I'll submit this on behalf of Governor Engler and myself.

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Thank you very much Governor Carper, and Governor
4 Engler. Any further discussion? Hearing none. All those in
5 favor of suspension of Rules, which require seventy five
6 percent--three quarters of those voting in attendance. All
7 those in favor, signify by saying "I" Posed, signify by say
8 "I". The "I" have it. The suspension is approved. The
9 resolutions are adopted en mass and I appreciate that.
10

11 I'd like to now call upon Governor Carl Gutierrez who
12 wanted to give us a quick comment on Guam.

13 GOVERNOR GUTIERREZ:

14 Thank you Mr. Chairman, Governor Thompson. Nothing
15 much except to state to you and Governor Dean, over the last
16 year. Thank you very much for your sincere efforts in trying
17 to move forward the Commonwealth movement for Guam. And I
18 just want to let you know that, your sincere personal efforts
19 is greatly appreciated as well as Governor Dean's over the
20 last year. And I just want to sort of give a warning to all
21 the governors that are here, that when that relationship is
22 forged, of mutual consent with the United States, that you
23 are going to see a signing star out in the western Pacific.
24 Thank you.
25

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 Thank you very much Carl, and thank you very much for
4 always attending these meetings, and being so much involved.
5 We appreciate that. We're going to stand informal for five
6 minutes.

7 The President will be here in five minutes and we're
8 just going to take a short recess. Governor Branstad.

9
10 GOVERNOR BRANSTAD:

11 Governor Thompson, I know we just voted unanimously to
12 suspend the Rules. But I think we actually ought to have a
13 separate motion on approving the resolutions that are under
14 suspension. Its kind of a Parliamentary technicality.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN:

16 Parliamentary procedure, absolutely. All those in
17 favor of approving the resolutions after the suspension of
18 the Rules. All those in favor of approving the resolutions
19 "en mass", signify by saying "I". Posed, signify by saying
20 "I". The "I" have it. Motion is granted. Thank you Governor
21 Branstad.

22 (Five minute recess called by the Chairman)

23 (Off record)

24 (Back on record)
25

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Please come on back in. The President is very busy and would like, I'm sure is about ready to begin. Would the staff, please, make sure the governors are contacted. We are ready to begin.

We are back in session, and I would like to have every pay close attention. The President of the United States is going to address us. President Clinton has addressed the governors many times before. Every time he has stood tall for a better partnership between the states and the federal government on behalf of all Americans. As President, he has repeatedly sought the advise and the counsel of the governors, and we appreciate it. On specific issues, the President has worked very hard for action, change, and reform on emergency disaster assistance, mandate relief, and regulatory relief, and had governors there when he signed those proposals.

President Clinton is a good friend to state government; he was a former member of this Association and former Chairman of this organization; and he has been a friend of the governors in particular. He has been very close to me because he was my mentor when I came into this

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2 Association, and I have always been impressed by his candor
3 and his leadership. We deeply appreciate your continuing
4 cooperation President, the governors look forward to
5 continuing our work together over the coming months on the
6 state/federal agenda.

7 I am very proud, as President of this organization
8 this morning, to welcome the President of the United States,
9 President Bill Clinton to address us. Good morning Mr.
10 President.

11
12 PRESIDENT CLINTON:

13 Good morning governors. Thank you. Thank you very much
14 Governor Thompson for your kind words, and for all your good
15 work as Chairman of the NGA over the past year. And thank
16 you also for your work on Reform, especially on reforming
17 Welfare. Not only in the bold plan you have developed in
18 Wisconsin, but also as a leader on behalf of the NGA on
19 Capitol Hill. And to Governor Miller, let me add my
20 congratulations to you, as you take on the responsibility of
21 leading the NGA. Its one of the best jobs I ever had, and I
22 know you will enjoy it as well. I regret very much that I
23 can't be with all of you for this meeting. I had especially
24 looked forward to being with my good friend and my fellow
25

1
2 Democrat, Governor Pedro Rosselló in Puerto Rico. And I hope
3 I can see you there before too long. But I'm glad you're
4 there, and I'm glad you're having a good meeting.

5 This is the fourth year I have spoken to the NGA as
6 President. And more than ever before, I believe that we are
7 poised together to make real bipartisan progress. And that
8 our nations governors have a critical role to play. I want
9 to thank all of you for the work you have done so far to
10 grow your economies, to help your people to be better
11 educated; and to reform Welfare and fight crime, and to
12 preserve the environment, and move people forward. We have
13 to think a lot about that now.
14

15 We all know that just four from now we will enter that
16 long awaited and very much discussed twenty first century.
17 You know as well as any group of Americans, that there are
18 tremendous forces of economic and social change remaking our
19 country. I believe that on balance, this is a positive and
20 hopeful time; an age of enormous possibility; a chance for
21 us to build a country and a world for our children that is
22 stronger and safer, and more full of opportunity than any
23 that has existed before. I believe we can do that if we meet
24 these new challenges with our most enduring values. We have
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2 to offer opportunity to all; we must demand responsibility
3 from all; and we must work hard to come together across all
4 our diversity as a great American community. We'll have to
5 meet these challenges, not by edicts from Washington. But by
6 working together at all levels, by cutting red tape, and
7 working with the private sector; by setting national goals
8 for ourselves by challenging states and localities to find
9 the best way to meet those goals.
10

11 Four years ago when I sought the presidency, our
12 nation was drifting with uncertain steps toward this new
13 century. Unemployment was nearly eight percent; job growth
14 was very slow; the deficit was at an all-time high. After
15 twelve years as a governor, I vowed to do what Chief
16 Executive in every state-house in America must do...put in
17 place a comprehensive strategy for economic growth, and
18 follow a path of fiscal responsibility. We cut the deficit,
19 expanded trade, invested in our people, and technology in
20 the future.
21

22 The results are in...Our economy has now created over
23 ten million new jobs; 3.7 million Americans have become new
24 homeowners; today we learned again that inflation continues
25 to moderate; real hourly wages have begun to climb for the

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2 first time in a decade; and we have surpassed our goal of
3 cutting the deficit in half. Just this morning we're
4 releasing the mid-session review of the budget. Four years
5 ago the deficit was two hundred and ninety billion, and
6 headed upward; today we are projecting it will be one
7 hundred seventeen billion dollars this year. We've cut the
8 deficit by sixty percent in four years, bringing it to its
9 lowest level in dollar terms, in fifteen years. As a share
10 of our economy, its now at its smallest level since 1981.
11 The smallest percentage of the economy--excuse me, since
12 1974; and we've got a lot more to do. I'm determined to
13 finish the job and balance the budget in a responsible way;
14 and at the same time, do more to give all Americans the
15 education and training they need to succeed in this new
16 economy. But the fact is, our economy is now the soundest
17 its been in a generation. Unlike the expansion of the
18 1980's, we can also be pleased that this growth is being
19 felt in all regions of our country. America is growing, and
20 your states are helping it to grow.
21

22 We are also making real and bipartisan progress in
23 other areas as well. We've put in place an anti-crime
24 strategy that was tough and smart; putting a hundred
25

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2 thousand police on the street; toughening penalties; taking
3 guns off the street by banning nineteen deadly assault
4 weapons through the "Brady Law". Now not a single hunter has
5 lost a gun due these bills. But sixty thousand felons,
6 fugitives and stalkers, have been denied guns. We're
7 encouraging communities to pull together to give their young
8 people the values and the discipline they need. That's why
9 we've been working to give communities the ability to impose
10 stronger curfews; enforce truancy laws, and require things
11 like school uniforms. These strategies are being tried in
12 communities all across our country, and all across our
13 country, the crime rate is coming down for four years in a
14 row. We must now bring this same focus to bear on the rising
15 tide of youth crime in gangs and drugs.
16

17 I ask you to work with our administration to tackle
18 the challenge as well; although the crime rate is going
19 down, in too many areas in our country, the juvenile crime
20 rate is going up. But we see, in the areas where its going
21 down, that there are strategies at work there too. If you
22 look at the areas where we've moved forward in the economy
23 and dealing with the crime problem, we've done it not by
24 clinging to old arrangements, or discarded philosophies, or
25

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2 political partisan divisions, but by moving forward
3 together, developing new approaches, taking the best ideas
4 from all sides; putting our values of opportunity,
5 responsibility, and community to work.

6 Now, as all of you know very well, none of our
7 challenges cries out for these approaches more than Welfare.
8 All Americans, without regard to party, know that our
9 Welfare system is broken, that it teaches the wrong values,
10 rewards the wrong choices, hurts those it was meant to help.
11 We also know that no one wants to change the current system
12 in a good way, more than the people who are trapped in it.

13
14 Since the time when I served as Co-Chair of the NGA's
15 Welfare Task Force, about a decade ago now, I have been
16 committed to ending Welfare as we know it. I worked with
17 many of your for years to fashion new solutions.

18 Today, after long years of effort, I believe we are
19 poised for a real breakthrough in Welfare reform. Real
20 Welfare reform requires work; it poses time limits; cracks
21 down on deadbeat parents by enforcing child support;
22 provides child care; and you haven't waited for Congress to
23 act, and we've worked with you to change the face of
24 Welfare. We've cut through red tape, and worked with you to
25

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2 set-up sixty seven Welfare Reform experiments in forty
3 states, with more to come. We've granted more than twice as
4 many waivers as the previous two administrations combined;
5 and now, seventy five percent of all Welfare recipients are
6 already under new rules.

7
8 The New York Times called this, "A quiet revolution in
9 Welfare". Well, I'm proud that there are 1.3 million fewer
10 people on Welfare now than the day I took office; and that
11 child-support collections are up forty percent. But there's
12 more to do.

13 As you know, the state of Wisconsin has submitted a
14 bold plan to reform Welfare. We are working closely with
15 Governor Thompson's staff, and I'm committed, as I've said
16 before, to getting this done. I'd just like to emphasize,
17 the things about this Wisconsin plan which are compelling to
18 me...The idea that people should be required, immediately,
19 to be ready to go to work. But that in return, they would
20 have health care, and child care guaranteed, and that the
21 Welfare money could be used to pay income supplements or
22 wage supplements to private employers to put these people to
23 work; and that if there is no private employment, these
24 folks will be given community service jobs. That what we
25

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2 ought to be doing everywhere. If we can create these jobs,
3 we ought to require people to take them.

4 I know every governor would agree with me, that for
5 all the good that's come from these waivers, however, we can
6 do a lot more once we pass comprehensive national Welfare
7 Reform. If we pass national Welfare Reform, we can do an
8 even better job of collecting child support across state
9 lines; and if we pass a national Welfare Reform, we can
10 eliminate this waiver process altogether.
11

12 For too long the Welfare issue has been mired by
13 partisanship, its been mired by gridlock. But in recent
14 weeks up here all this seems to be changing. I think we've
15 now reached a real turning-point, a breakthrough for Welfare
16 Reform.

17 The new leadership of the Senate, along with the
18 leadership of the House of Representatives, now indicated
19 that they want to move forward with bipartisan Welfare
20 Reform, and are dropping their insistence that Welfare be
21 linked to the block granting of Medicaid. They've said that
22 they want to work to pass legislation I can sign, rather
23 than sending me legislation they know that I would reject.
24 As you know, Congress sent me a Welfare Reform Bill last
25

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2 year that fell short of my principles, as well as those
3 expressed by the NGA in your February Resolution. After my
4 veto on your unanimous resolution, I'm pleased that the
5 Congressional leadership has made several significant
6 improvements that have made this a much better bill, and
7 that is four billion dollars in child care; included a one
8 billion work performance bonus to reward states for moving
9 people from Welfare to work. They removed the spending cap
10 on food stamps so that states don't come up short in tough
11 times. Their original bill made cuts and structural changes
12 that were tough on children: The school lunch block grant, a
13 twenty five percent cut, and SSI for disabled children; cuts
14 in foster care. The current bill drops all these provisions.
15 Congress has taken long strides in the right direction.

16
17 Now, as we approach the goal line, we do have a chance
18 to make history and make this bill even better. We can give
19 all our people a chance to move from Welfare to work; to
20 transform our broken Welfare system once and for all.

21
22 So, I hope that Congress will continue to improve the
23 bill along the lines that you and I have long advocated. And
24 along the lines of the strong bipartisan bills introduced by
25 Senators John Grow, and John Chaffey, and Representative

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2 John Tanner, and Mike Castle, another former colleague of
3 ours. We must not let this opportunity slip from our grasp
4 as it has too many times before. Let's put politics aside,
5 let's give the American people the best possible Welfare
6 Reform Bill. And let's do it before the August Congressional
7 recess. I'm determined that this bill, that this will be the
8 year, that we finally transform Welfare across America. If
9 Congress doesn't act, we still have to continue that, to
10 make responsibility a way of life, and not an option.
11

12 Today, I am taking the steps that I can take as
13 President, to advance the central premise of Welfare Reform;
14 one that is embodies in all the proposed Welfare
15 Bills...That anyone who can go to work, must do so. We'll
16 say to Welfare recipients within two years, "you'll be
17 expected to go to work and earn a paycheck, not draw a
18 Welfare check". Here's how we'll do that: I'm directing the
19 Department of Health and Human Services, to require everyone
20 who takes part in the "Jobs Program" to sign a personal
21 responsibility contract, and commit to going to work within
22 two years. States can then take away the benefits if they
23 fail to live up to that commitment.
24

25 Today, twenty eight states already impose work

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2 requirements and time limits. Every one of them under
3 Welfare, granted Welfare waivers granted by our
4 administration. I believe all fifty states should follow
5 that lead. This action will ensure that that happens, even
6 before Welfare Reform legislation passes. Of course, this
7 will take effect only if Congress fails to enact Welfare
8 Reform legislation. I far prefer a bill passed by Congress,
9 and I know you do too. So let's agree, one way or another,
10 we'll make work and responsibility the law of the land. But,
11 we want a good Welfare Reform Bill.
12

13 Ten years ago, at an NGA meeting in Hilton Head, South
14 Carolina, I heard testimony from a woman from Little Rock. A
15 woman who had moved from Welfare to work, through our
16 state's Work Program. She told us, "The best thing about
17 work, is not the check. The best thing is, when my boy goes
18 to school, and they ask him, "What does you mom do for a
19 living"? He can give an answer".
20

21 Well, today, ten years later, that lady has a job, and
22 she's raised three children. One has a job, and two are in
23 school. By her undying effort, and her unbreakable spirit,
24 she shows us that we can make a difference; that this cycle
25 of Welfare can be broken; that Welfare can be a second

1
2 chance, not a way of life. So let me say in closing, that we
3 can meet all our challenges, if we'll work in this way. And
4 if we'll follow the example of the NGA, be bipartisan,
5 cooperative, look for results not abstract rhetoric; not be
6 ashamed to learn from each other, and take our best ideas
7 from each other. And putting our values to work.

8
9 That's how we can reform Welfare, and meet our other
10 challenges. If we do that, this country will enter the 21st
11 century stronger and more vibrant than ever before, with the
12 American Dream alive for all our people. Thank you very
13 much.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN:

15 Thank you very much Mr. President for being with us.
16 We're sad that you couldn't be with us in person, but we
17 understand. We appreciate very much that you'd take time out
18 of your busy schedule to appear by this video conferencing
19 and being able to give us your views on many subjects. And
20 we certainly want to pledge our support to get through a
21 bipartisan Welfare Reform Bill for the good of all
22 Americans. Thank again, Mr. President.

23
24 PRESIDENT CLINTON:

25 Thank you Governor, and good-bye.

1
2 MR. CHAIRMAN:

3 We have just a few more things to go over. The final
4 things I have, before we have the election and the transfer
5 of Chairmanship, is a discussion of state plans for the
6 follow-up to the 1996 National Education Summit.

7 I believe that the 1996 National Education Summit
8 energized efforts to improve and implement standards, and
9 also to be able to have assessments, hopefully, adopted in
10 all of our states. This event brought new stake-holders to
11 the issue; focused public discussion; dispelled much of the
12 concerns at high academic standards for all children, was a
13 goal that had fallen outside of the mainstream public
14 consensus and support. And this way, the Summit more than
15 met its goals, and provided a real jump-start to efforts to
16 implement standards, assessments, and new accountable
17 systems.
18

19 In addition, the Summit has generated a whole set of
20 activities across the country. More than ten states have
21 announced their own Summit. And last week, the Education
22 Commission of States, focused part of its meeting on the
23 follow-up to the Summit. National and State Business and
24 Education Associations have also held Summit follow-up
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2 meetings to consider what role they can play in helping to
3 achieve the commitments made at the Summit. And the Business
4 Round-table has also begun to develop guidelines for
5 companies as they work to change their hiring practices.
6 We're making progress, ladies and gentlemen. And each of the
7 states that are holding Summits, are designing them in a way
8 that helps promote the current reform efforts in the state.

9
10 I would now like to call on some of the states hosting
11 Summits, and ask them to tell us about their plans. And I'd
12 like to begin with Governor Bob Miller.

13 GOVERNOR MILLER:

14 Thanks Tommy. I, as I know you are, am very excited
15 about the prospects of following-up on the Education Summit
16 we had last March in the Palisades at IBM's Headquarters.

17 When we talk in terms of "standards" and "assessments"
18 and "accountability", I think the average person isn't quite
19 aware of exactly what we mean. I think perhaps, in an over-
20 simplified fashion, its best described as what do we expect
21 our children to learn; are they in fact, learning it; and
22 what will we do if they are not. And this effort, which is
23 designed to be a resonating grass-roots effort, in local
24 jurisdictions through them through the state, is dependent
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2 upon each of us as governors to move forward from what we
3 learned in Palisades, and not just have that be a
4 conference. In Nevada, we're going to have two Summits which
5 will include the business leadership in conjunction with my
6 partner from the Education Summit, Elaine Wynn, CEO of
7 Mirage--one of the CEO's of the Mirage Resorts. And we
8 intend to also include those involved in the education
9 system, including educators, parents, concerned citizens,
10 etcetera, to try and restructure our emphasis on goals and
11 standards, and on accountability.
12

13 We want to take a careful look at following-up what my
14 wife has already done in trying to access what technology we
15 have in our state. She had brought together a coalition of
16 everybody that deals with technology, from the public
17 service television, to the libraries, to the university, to
18 the school districts, to our power company and our phone
19 companies; and in a grant through the Milliken Foundation, we
20 are now accessing what we have, and what we can logically
21 extend to in the next two years. And I think all states have
22 potential for improvement in both technology and in setting
23 the basics for learning. And I would encourage each governor
24 to follow-up individually in their own state within the
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2 course of the next year, to what we initiated last March in
3 Pacific Palisades. Thank you.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN:

5 Thank you so very much Bob. I'm so happy that you're
6 moving ahead, as well as many other governors. I now would
7 like to call upon my friend, Lawton Chiles, and I also,
8 while you were out of the room, I complemented you Lawton,
9 twice, and also indicated that when we were having some
10 difficult moments on Medicaid and Welfare, you came up with
11 some wonderful sayings that brought us all back together.
12 Like saying, "If you keep thinking the same thoughts, you're
13 going to end-up doing the same things you've already done".
14

15 GOVERNOR CHILES:

16 Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm excited to see, to tell
17 you that we are also planning a Summit in Florida. We came
18 back from the Palisades meeting feeling that that would be
19 necessary. I think we went to the meeting thinking that,
20 "Well Florida is doing all the things you're thinking about
21 doing at this meeting. We can go and just say, you know, see
22 who else is maybe further behind than we are". I think we
23 were glad to see what everybody was doing, and to find that
24 many were as far along, or further than Florida. But also,
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2 came back realizing that we needed stronger corporate
3 support, and we needed to have the business community
4 understand, and the private sector understand what we were
5 doing in Florida. And the Summit would give us that kind of
6 opportunity. Working with the business counterpart, that we
7 took up Jack Critchfield from Florida Power.

8
9 We are now setting sort of a Governor's Commission
10 that will do some planning, and not only planning, will hold
11 a number of hearings prior to holding a Summit after the
12 first of the year. Our Summit will probably be held sometime
13 in February, again, well before our legislature comes into
14 session. We would hope to lay out some things that would be
15 able to take place.

16 Also, we will be going into a Constitutional revision
17 in 1998, something we do every ten years in Florida. And we
18 think that what could be planned at the Education Summit
19 could be a prelude to some things that we would be seeking
20 in some Constitutional changes. So we're excited about the
21 prospects. We look forward to continuing to work, and think
22 that what the National Governor's and the business community
23 did at Palisades was a wonderful, wonderful step.

24
25 We need to keep following-up on that. We look forward

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2 to that, together with having the assessment team that we
3 are now working how to set up, so that we can, again, learn
4 and share in ideas that are going, and there can be some
5 common thread that we can see what kind of progress the
6 states are making.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN:

8 Thank you very much Lawton, for your leadership on
9 this issue, as well as many other issues. I appreciate it,
10 and your friendship as well. I would like to now, just say a
11 few comments before I call upon Governor Knowles for the
12 Nominating Committee.
13

14 I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of
15 the governors for being so wonderful to work with this past
16 year. I certainly have appreciated the fact that we came to
17 meetings ready to work, and willing to set aside our
18 partisan, and philosophical and ideological differences. We
19 worked extremely hard, and I think we had a very successful
20 year. I was very pleased this meeting, that I hardly heard
21 any partisan remarks whatsoever. It was always remarks of
22 how we could work together better in the future. And I
23 complement the governors and appreciate their support and
24 their hard work. We've had a wonderful year. A year in which
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2 we came together at the February meeting when Congress was
3 having differences, and the President and so on. They were
4 having difficulties reaching agreement.

5 The governors came in to Washington D.C., and we
6 expected, because we are governors, to accomplish our task,
7 which was, reach an agreement. We reached agreements on
8 "School to Work", on "Work Force Excellence", on "Medicaid
9 and Welfare". And the skeptics out there said it could not
10 be done. We've made tremendous progress on all of those
11 issues. And I believe it was because we, as governors, being
12 excited to work together in a strong bipartisan effort,
13 which has always been the cornerstone of this organization.
14 And when I, as Chairman, decided that if we would try and
15 have an Educational Summit with the business community, and
16 Lou Gerstner, a lot of people thought that that also would
17 be very difficult to pull-off. And I'm here to report that I
18 think it was very successful.

19
20 Lou Gerstner reported yesterday that he still
21 appreciates the tremendous effort, that governors came to
22 Palisades in a bipartisan effort for the betterment of
23 education across America. And its that kind of spirit that I
24 believe is what makes the National Governor's organization
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2 such a wonderful organization. And when I asked governors to
3 come up with the best ideas that were working in their
4 states, they did it, and they did it with a great deal of
5 diplomacy, and a great deal of earnest, as well as the
6 desire to try and find out the best ideas that they had,
7 that could be then exported to other states. Its that kind
8 of friendship camaraderie that's going to strengthen and
9 make our organization stronger tomorrow and better tomorrow
10 than it is today.
11

12 I thank you all for your support. I appreciate it. It
13 was a gratifying year for me. Somewhat sad, as I talked to
14 Roy Romer last night at the Rain forest, because he's had
15 this Chairmanship. He said, "It's sad to give up the post.
16 But it happens each year". And I'm looking forward to
17 working with, I think, and outstanding governor from Nevada,
18 who has given me the greatest support any Chairman could
19 ever have.
20

21 Bob Miller has been there time, time again, and has
22 helped out in a strong bipartisan, and constructive way. And
23 I'm deeply in his debt for the work that he has done for
24 this organization. And I'm looking forward to continuing our
25 partnership and work in the future. And I know the

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2 organization is in good hands with Bob and George Voinovich
3 leading it in the coming year.

4 I would, before I call upon Governor Knowles, like to
5 thank my family, who is here. They support me, and I
6 appreciate that very much. I also would like to certainly,
7 thank Mary Sheehy from my Washington office, because when
8 she was introduced the other day, she got a bigger round of
9 applause than I did. I was wondering why, and they said,
10 "Because she works harder than you do Governor, and she
11 always does it with a much prettier face, and much more
12 charm than I do". And so, Mary, I don't say "thank you"
13 enough to you. And I appreciate that.
14

15 And to the NGA staff, Ray Scheppach, as everybody
16 knows, he and I did not always, I would say, get along. In
17 fact, when I asked for an audit, Ray was very suspicious
18 that the reason for the audit was to find enough reason to
19 fire him. And I indicated to him at my first meeting, that
20 that was not the case, that we would work together, and we
21 have. He is an outstanding Executive Director, and I
22 appreciate it. And the staff, I don't think, as governors,
23 we could ever be better served than the staff that we have
24 in the center of the organization. And when I came and met
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2 with the staff the first time, they said it was the first
3 time that a governor called in the staff and met with them
4 directly. And their comments were, "You know, we can be
5 better if governors would only listen to us". And I told
6 them I would...I pledged that, and we have. They've turned
7 out to be great friends of mine, great help, great
8 employees, and I thank you all for the wonderful job you do,
9 for me, and for all the governors. I appreciate it. Thank
10 you.
11

12 And now I call upon Governor Knowles for the Report of
13 the Nominating Committee for the 1996-1997 Executive
14 Committee.

15 GOVERNOR KNOWLES:

16 Mr. Chairman, fellow governors, the Nominating
17 Committee recommends the following governors for the 1996-
18 1997 NGA Executive Committee: Governor Roy Romer, Colorado;
19 Governor Lawton Chiles, Florida; Governor Jim Edgar,
20 Illinois; Governor John Engler, Michigan; Governor Mike
21 Leavitt, Utah; Governor Howard Dean, Vermont; Governor Tommy
22 Thompson, Wisconsin; Governor George Voinovich, Ohio, as
23 Vice Chairman; and Governor Bob Miller, Nevada, as Chairman.
24 Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the Report of the
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Nominating Committee.

DEPARTING CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much Governor Knowles. The Nominating Committee has made a selection, and it moves the nomination of the officers for the up-coming year in the National Governor's organization. A motion has been made, a second is in order. Governor Chiles makes the second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the nominations as submitted by Governor Knowles, signify by saying, "I". Posed, signify by saying, "I". The "I" have it. The motion is granted.

And it is indeed my honor, my privilege to turn over the gavel to a great governor, great friend, and a great individual, Bob Miller.

NEW CHAIRMAN:

I would like to begin by recognizing that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve and assist Governor Thompson, to learn from his leadership, and to benefit from his bipartisan tempered approach, which I think, has helped our Association bond to a stronger group than ever before, and accomplish more, perhaps, than any year of the National Governor's Association. And I would like Governor Thompson

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2 to present to you this gavel in commemoration of the
3 outstanding leadership you provided as Chairman during this
4 past year.

5 GOVERNOR THOMPSON:

6 Thank you Bob.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN:

8 With that kind of accolade, you ought to hold out for
9 a seven-year, ninety eight million dollar contract from the
10 NBA or NGA, I don't know if we could pay that much in the
11 NGA.
12

13 I also would like to make a presentation to you, a
14 personal one from Nevada. A couple of days ago, in welcoming
15 me to this potential new role that I have now assumed as
16 Chairman, Governor Thompson graciously gave me some
17 presents. He gave me a half dozen Wisconsin golf balls,
18 which I am sad to say proved to be defective. Neither do
19 they land in the fairway, nor do they drop in the hole. But
20 I have for you, a Las Vegas collapsible putter, and a set of
21 Nevada golf balls, which are hot on the golf courses in
22 Nevada. But you can also use the collapsible putter inside,
23 so that you can practice your game, now that you have so
24 much extra time on your hands. I would add, I do have one
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2 other gift coming.

3 Governor Thompson was also kind enough to present me a
4 tie, commemorating our trip to Africa, which I'm sure only
5 coincidentally, instead of depicting the Lion that we
6 usually think of in terms of Africa, instead chose to depict
7 the elephant. I too have an elephant, a Tiffany elephant for
8 you. But as we all know, elephants don't travel very well.
9 So I'm going to have to present it to you at a later time.
10 And I want to thank all of you here, my colleagues, for this
11 honor.
12

13 This has been an exciting year. It began with an
14 aggressive agenda, working with the United States Congress,
15 and now, as we culminate the year and begin the next, we
16 find ourselves in the throws of a Presidential election.
17 Even before Senator Dole concluded his remarks today, there
18 was a great deal of speculation as to whether or not his
19 running mate might come from the throws of this
20 organization. In fact, I noticed, as did many others,
21 yesterday, on the front page of USA Today, the listing of
22 that speculation, and a paragraph that indicated Senator
23 Dole had called one of the Republican governors, while they
24 were here at the meeting, to talk about this issue. I, and
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2 many of us, have been buzzing around trying to determine to
3 whom that call was made. Some speculated it was made to our
4 good friend from Michigan. And I think that was dispelled
5 when early this morning I learned that he was performing an
6 audit on governor Thompson's phone records here at the
7 hotel. Others wondered if it was our new Vice Chair, from
8 Ohio, who has confided in me that he really likes his new
9 title, especially the "Vice" part; he said its a warm-up for
10 next year. But if indeed the call came to him, it might not
11 have been for that purpose, since yesterday was his
12 birthday, and that might have been just a birthday welcome.
13

14 So I thinks it comes upon me to break the news, and
15 the speculation. I'm sure that you have all observed the
16 many cellular phone calls that Roy Romer from Colorado has
17 received during these meetings, and yes, it is true that in
18 fact, Bob Dole has been calling Roy, taking him out of the
19 meetings, asking him something about playing the "Lamb
20 Card". As a new governor seven and a half years ago, I went
21 to my first NGA meeting, along with Governors Bayh and
22 Caperton, who are concluding their service as governors.
23

24 Their last meeting is this one. And I was immediately
25 impressed by the sense of bipartisanship and the dedication

1 that existed to finding common ground. This year, under the
2 leadership of Tommy Thompson, this Association has
3 rededicated itself to bipartisanship. And when the public
4 was treated each night to a television broadcast, after news
5 accounts and further broadcasts of partisan squabbling and
6 fighting in Washington D.C., this Association became a
7 beacon. We demonstrated to the public that the tough issues
8 can be vigorously debated; tempers can fly; but when men and
9 women of good faith dedicate themselves to progress, it can
10 be made, even on the toughest issues. Tommy brought this
11 group together time, and time again, on tough issues such as
12 Welfare, Medicaid, and the Education Summit. And we did make
13 progress. Yet the work is not finished. We must rededicate
14 this organization to bring Welfare Reform into reality. And
15 while the legislative days in Congress are slipping by fast,
16 Governors Carper and Engler are closely working together, in
17 a bipartisan fashion to keep the pressure to get a bill to
18 President Clinton's desk that he can and will sign. This
19 election year has taken a toll on our efforts in Washington.
20 But our Medicaid efforts should be renewed in the next
21 Congress. A hundred hours was spent in rooms, locked
22 together, six of us working vigorously on this issue. And at
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1 this juncture, I can say that its a down payment. But its
2 one that we need to build off of, and next year we need to
3 finish that job. It was a year ago at this time, that Lou
4 Gerstner challenged the governors to renew the quest for
5 educational reform. And we are in fact, meeting that
6 challenge.
7

8 The governors joined the business community at
9 Palisades, and laid out a highly focused agenda on raising
10 educational standards, raising the bar of expectations.

11 The analogy frequently used was that, if we were to
12 send our Olympic athletes to Atlanta, as we are about to do,
13 having been trained to jump over a three-foot high jump, our
14 expectations of their achievement would be sorely lacking.
15 And yet, that's the comparative analysis of what we expect
16 of our students, as compared to competitors across the
17 world. We need to focus on that, and create the tools
18 necessary to assess how our students are doing. At that
19 meeting, we established the organizational structure to help
20 get this job done. Today, we've refined it, and formalized
21 it. And this year I am committed to continuing our
22 leadership on education, for there is little that we as
23 governors can do that is as important as being the CEO's of
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1 our respective state's education system.

2 If you need further proof of that comparative
3 analysis, we heard it yesterday from Ambassador Carl Hills,
4 and Economic Advisor, Doctor Laura Tyson, about our
5 expanding role in the world economy, and how our economy has
6 to become stronger competitively. And if we're going to
7 remain at the front of the pack, to keep our high wages jobs
8 here at home, and continue to expand our economy, our
9 children must get a first class education. The information
10 age and the global economy demand no less from us. Yet we
11 can reform Welfare, see Medicaid to the end, build a world-
12 class education system, but still be found wanting if we do
13 not rededicate ourselves to tackling the crime issue. Our
14 citizens believe that they are not safe in their homes. That
15 in many cities, their streets are not places of commerce,
16 but are battlegrounds for gangs. And school yards resemble
17 prison camps, rather than playgrounds. This is unacceptable.
18 And I believe that it is unacceptable that the legal system
19 in too many cases, is not adequately concerned with the
20 rights of the victims of these crimes. Many years ago, I
21 served as the Chairman of the National District Attorney's
22 Association. And throughout that tenor, and in my role as
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1 Governor, as former Chairman of our Criminal Justice
2 Committee, I have always believed, and continue to, that we
3 need to focus on equity in our criminal justice system to
4 ensure the success that we need to eradicate ourselves of
5 violence in our streets. Fighting crime is always popular in
6 an election year. But we cannot afford to let this fall by
7 the wayside after the last vote is cast. And so I would like
8 to see us dedicated to it throughout the course of the full
9 remaining year.
10

11 We must work creatively to find strategies so that
12 American can become a safer and more secure place to live. I
13 am privileged to serve as your Chairman.
14

15 I look forward to working with all of you to make next
16 year as productive as last year has been. I am extremely
17 pleased and excited to have the opportunity to work more
18 closely with Governor George Voinovich, who I believe has
19 always exhibited the finest qualities of this Association.
20 He is the person who has time and again, shown that he makes
21 decisions based upon reason, that he is open-minded, and
22 that he has the best interests of all in mind. And so as I
23 had the pleasure of working with Governor Thompson, look
24 forward to having the pleasure of working with Governor
25

1 Voinovich next year. And last, let me thank our hosts,
2 Governor Rosselló for an absolutely outstanding conference,
3 and tremendous hospitality. I would tell you that this is
4 the best structured, most enjoyable time I've ever had in
5 Puerto Rico. But my wife reminds me that since we had our
6 honeymoon here twenty three years ago at this location, that
7 this conference falls a little short of her honeymoon. But
8 other than that, it was truly outstanding in everything that
9 you provided. And I conclude by inviting you all next year,
10 to our annual meeting in Las Vegas, at the Mirage Hotel,
11 where, what seems unreal in the desert, is real on the Las
12 Vegas Strip. Thank you. That concludes this annual meeting.
13

14 We will have a press conference immediately in an
15 adjacent room. And there will be an Executive Board meeting
16 on the Mirador level immediately thereafter. Thank you all
17 for being here.
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19 (Whereupon, the annual meeting of the NGA was adjourned.)
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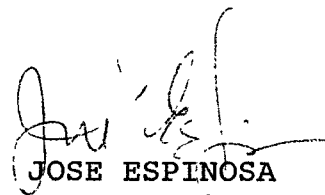
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, José Espinosa, Court Reporter and member of
Espinosa & Espinosa, Inc.,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY: That the foregoing transcript is a
full, true and correct record of the Plenary Session given
which was taken down by me.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on August 15, 1996.



JOSE ESPINOSA

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