

World and Nation

Bush, governors discuss education

From Associated Press reports
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The nation's governors assembled Wednesday for a summit conference with President Bush to combat mediocrity in U.S. schools. Bush predicted "fundamental changes" would result but ruled out a hefty increase in federal aid to education.

Controversy over spending rumbled just below the surface at the start of a day and a half of closed sessions on the historic campus of the University of Virginia, whose establishment was the proudest accomplishment of Thomas Jefferson — America's first "education president."

Bush spelled out his expectations before leaving Washington to join the governors, his wife and his Cabinet at the first meeting of a president and chief state executives to discuss education — historically a local matter. The president said he was looking for agreement committing the states "to restructure and to make those fundamental changes that are needed if we are going

to improve educational performance." But, he said, "We're not going to quintuple spending." He brushed aside calls for a vast expansion of the Head Start program to prepare poor children for school.

The touchy money issue was raised by Democratic Gov. James Blanchard of Michigan, in an "open letter" to Bush.

"We do not come to rattle a tin cup ... but we cannot afford to have our education revenues 'bled' by the federal government," Blanchard said, contending the federal government was retreating from past levels of support.

He said the federal commitment to education had declined over the past decade from 2.5 percent to 1.8 percent of the federal budget. "If education is to become a national priority, you and the Congress should reverse that decline."

But money is not the issue, insisted former New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu, Bush's chief of staff.

"We've got to do it smart, we've got to do it right," Sununu said on NBC's

"Today" show. "Our problem is not money, our problem is using the money that is there effectively."

His television interview was part of what the White House admitted was an effort to put its own "spin" on the proceedings.

There was some chafing about arrangements at the meetings.

Governors are not used to being kept away from the spotlight, and Democratic Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas complained about plans that he saw as designed to have that effect. He said the White House wanted only administration figures to prepare summaries of the work sessions.

As for substance, Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh, a Democrat, returning from a five-week tour of his state's schools, told reporters he was looking to Bush for support in traditional federal areas as vocational education, Head Start and other preschool-school programs as well as aid for students who can't afford college educations.

But Bayh conceded he didn't expect

to see "any major commitments of federal resources to local education."

Richard Miller, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, complained that no local educators had been invited to take part. He asked Bush to convene a White House conference that would include administrators, teachers, school board members and parents.

On the summit agenda were such issues as revitalizing the teaching profession, improving the learning environment, giving parents the chance to enroll their children in schools with good track records and combating drugs in schools.

Bush said he saw a "strong consensus" forming behind national performance goals under which schools can be compared with others in the country.

Another emerging idea is "choice" — the concept of allowing parents to enroll their youngsters in whatever school they wish. This would force schools to compete to keep students.

The summit was called to fulfill Bush's campaign pledge to become "the education president."

The topic has taken on new urgency since the election with warnings from businessmen that schools are not turning out graduates capable of competing with their foreign counterparts.

Defense secretary Cheney warns against budget cuts

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, releasing the Pentagon's annual assessment of Soviet military might, said Wednesday that Congress should not impose spending cuts "in anticipation of a kinder, gentler Soviet Union."

The secretary warned that the Soviet Union continues to modernize its armed forces and will remain the world's largest military power even if Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev makes good on his promised cutbacks and pledges of reform.

"In sum, we now find a Soviet Union which retains enormous military power the only nation still capable of threatening the very survival of the United States," Cheney said at a Pentagon briefing. "Prudence, therefore, dictates that we maintain our defenses while we wait and see about Soviet developments."

Democrats push Polish aid
 WASHINGTON — Democratic leaders said Wednesday that it's not

News in Brief

enough for President Bush to urge other nations to help Poland's push toward freedom without offering more U.S. aid — something the president says he isn't ready to do.

The Democratic criticism came as Bush told the 152-nation International Monetary Fund "we must do more" to encourage Poland's new non-communist government to succeed with its planned economic and political reforms.

"For its part, the United States intends to be out in front of this effort, to take advantage of this historic development and to ensure its success," Bush said.

But the president immediately told reporters he's not prepared to increase the \$219 million U.S. aid package to Poland, saying any increase will be hinged on the success of the reform measures being drafted by the Polish government.

Minor

of faculty and available classes. "We're not expecting 5,000 people to knock down our door. We'll just

have to wait and see."

The academic affairs committee has researched minors at other universities and would be willing to help individual departments with development of the minor, he said.

Schools that offer minors by department include Boston University, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of California at Los Angeles, N.C. State University and the University of Texas at Austin.

The UNC women's studies department already has a certificate program, which offers non-majors a certificate for completing 12 hours of course work.

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Sat., Sept. 30, 9:00 a.m.
 Sun., Oct. 1, 9:00 a.m.
 at PAGE AUDITORIUM-
 West Campus, Duke Univ.

Yom Kippur
 Sunday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m.
 at THE HILLEL HOUSE

Mon., Oct. 9, 9:00 a.m.
 All day at PAGE AUDITORIUM,
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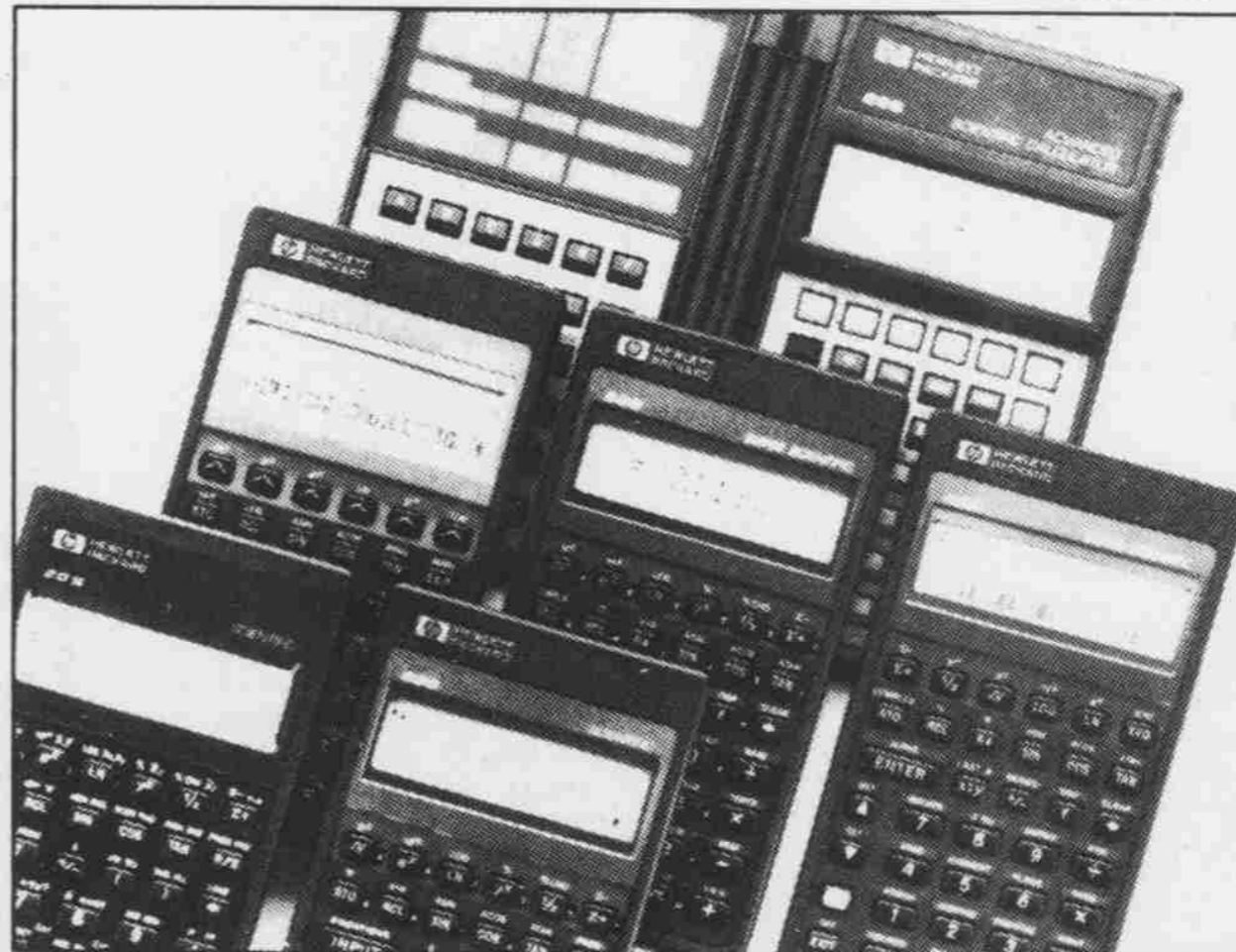
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