

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S EDUCATION AGENDA

PART II

By **Richard W. Riley, U.S. Secretary of Education**

So I believe firmly in high standards, the sunshine of excellence. I'm not just talking about raising standards for smart kids — the "A" students who always make it in life. I'm talking about all those kids in the back of the classroom who get their "C's" and drift through school... and the hundreds of thousands who just drop out.

Education starts with values. Most of us who have made a go of it in life have gotten ahead

because we had a Mom, a Dad, a grandparent, a teacher, a preacher or guardian who let us know where they stood about our preparing ourselves for life, hard work and respect for others. We didn't like it then, but we know now that the values process worked, and it still works. Parents create the frame; teachers help kids fill in the picture.

Now, the big question I always asked is how do you raise performance? A schoolteacher at my children's school had a fondness for quoting Proverbs. Her favorite was, "A wise son

loves correction." My children were dutiful, to be sure, but not impressed by this passing wisdom. I am certain that your children and the children you work with will feel likewise.

But we are in trouble as a nation when one-third of all eighth-graders tells us that they have never discussed their homework with a parent. So here is my best advice, what I call Riley's Rule... slow down the pace of your lives in order to help your children grow. If a parent, or a grandparent or an Aunt will spend some time with a child every night, we could literally transform this nation. Children's ability to learn rises exponentially when this happens. Every

report tells us that.

Now, those of us here in Washington can be helpful, and everything we are doing is centered on building what the President calls a new ethic of learning.

First, we want to pass the GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT, creating voluntary opportunities to learn and national content standards. At its core, the legislation is based on a simple premise — in a new economic era students and schools must be stretched to reach for higher goals. When it passes, it will start a chain reaction in every state all the way down to your local school. So don't lose sight of this bill. We

want all of you and every organization at the grass roots at the table of power when it comes to school reform.

We are also working hard to solve the \$2 billion funding shortfall for the Pell Grant program, which is still the main way we help first time college students, especially minority students pay for school. I have to tell you that my mouth just about fell open when I got to Washington and got handed an I.O.U for \$2 billion dollars, my first day on the job. And, that is just about the truth of the matter. We have whittled that \$2 billion gap down to \$800 million and we are working hard to close it.

I am also committed to mak-

ing sure that the TRIO programs like Upward Bound and Talent Search continue their fine work and are well maintained. I have faith in these programs. We have also committed new funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

We also don't want to forget the vast majority of high school graduates, about 75%, who do not go on to attend a four year college. About a third of all of these graduates do not find stable employment before they are age thirty. That's almost a decade after they graduate.

We need to give these young people a jump-start to building careers. This is my Department, (See Clinton, Page 26)

STUDENTS SOUGHT FOR 6 WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM

Houston — Minority college students and graduates considering careers as physicians may apply for the Honors Pre-Medical Academy, a six-week summer program held at Baylor College of Medicine and Rice University in Houston.

The national program, funded partially by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is designed to increase minority representation in medicine by enhancing the participants' competitiveness in the medical school application pool.

Admission is based on academic achievement and interest in medical careers. Participants must be African-American, Mexican American, mainland

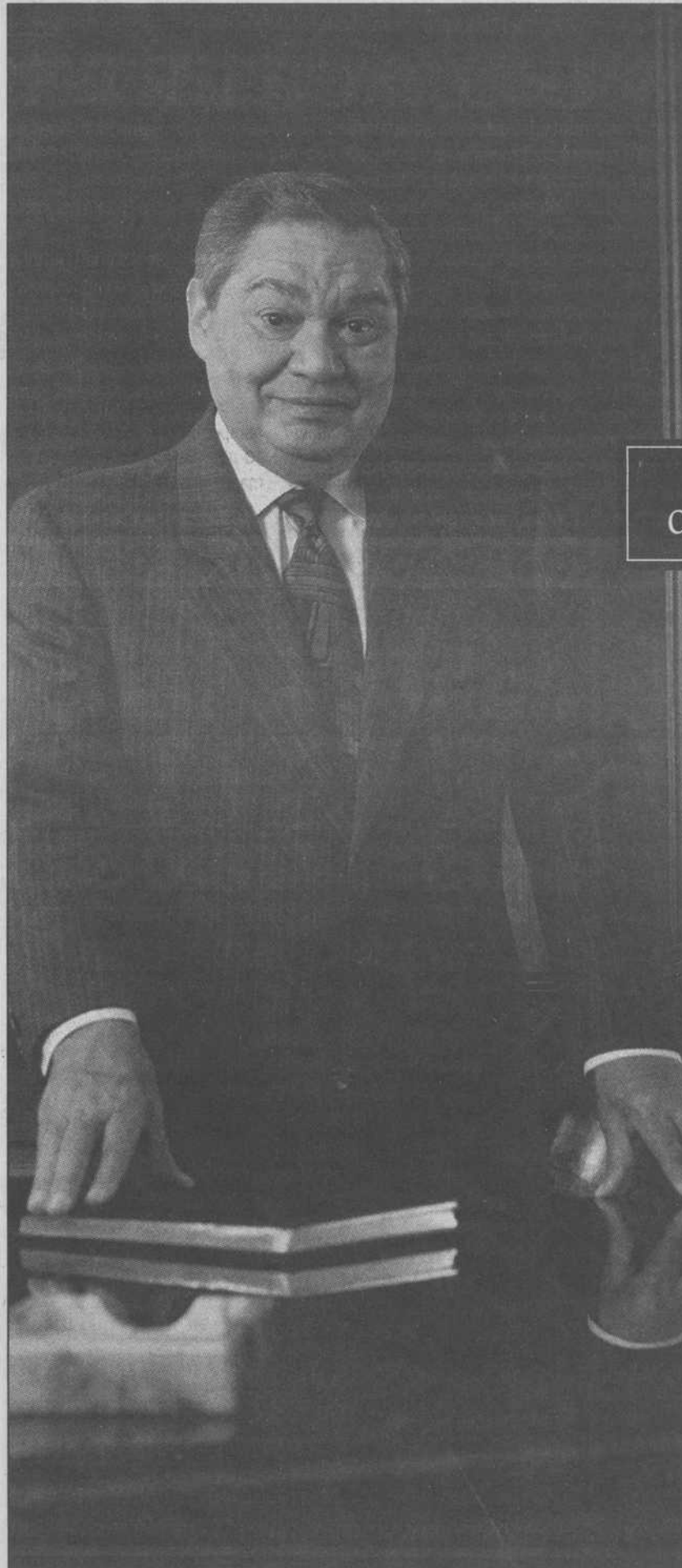
Puerto Rican or Native American.

Participants spend mornings in a medical setting paired with physicians and afternoons in science and communications classes at Rice.

"Many students come away from the program with a greater appreciation of the teamwork and professional preparation required in medicine," said Dr. Demetrius Pearson, program director at Baylor.

College credit, housing and stipend are provided. Space is limited to 125 students. Application deadline is March 1, 1994.

For more information, call (800) 633-6445 or (713) 798-4841.



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DOOLITTLE SATELLITE SENIOR CENTER DECEMBER

The Doolittle Satellite Senior Center, located inside the Doolittle Community Center, at 1901 N. "J" Street (at W. Lake Mead) is open to people age 55 and older from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call 229-6125 to confirm the time and date of the activity and to sign up.

Legal advice and other senior services are offered from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Dec. 16, to people 60 years old and older. Appointments must be made in advance by calling 229-6596. A monthly birthday party takes place at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 23. The Healthy Strides Group meets at 10 a.m., every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Chair Exercise classes meet at 10 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Bingo is played at noon every Tuesday and Thursday. Sewing and stitching classes meet at 12 noon every Wednesday. A sketching class with Mitch meets at 10 a.m. every Friday. "55 Alive," a two-day refresher driver course, is offered from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dec. 14 and 15. An \$8 fee is charged to attend. Call the center for details, how to pay, and to sign up. Table tennis is played Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:00 a.m. Ballroom Dancing is taught Mondays and Fridays at noon. Free blood pressure checks are offered Dec. 2 at 11 a.m.

BE SOMEONE SPECIAL

Advise a child to stay in school and to say no to drugs.



"Let's work together to make life better"
A message from Ken Bosket