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New Hampshire: [Jeanne Shaheen]

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To: Josh
Fr: Craig

Memo to Presidential Speechwriting**From: Ken Robinson****Re: Suggested talking points for the February 18th 100 Club reception with the President**

Background: This is the 40th anniversary of the 100 Club Celebration of the New Hampshire Democratic Party. The tradition begun by Walter J. Dunfee and E. Leo Kanteres in 1959 became an important annual event attracting Presidents and other important national leaders. Past attendees include Robert F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter**Please acknowledge the following attendees:**

Governor Shaheen
Billy Shaheen, husband of the Governor
Senate President Junie Blaisdell
House Democratic Leader Peter Burling

Jeff Woodburn, NHDP Chair
Kathy Sullivan, current Vice Chair of the NHDP and unopposed candidate for Party chair in the upcoming February 28th election
Rep. Raymond Buckley, House Democratic Whip, Manchester City Chair and unopposed candidate for Vice Chair, NHDP
Deb Crapo, Vice Chair, NHDP
Stan Post, Secretary of NHDP
Gaeten DiGangi, Treasurer, NHDP
Sophia Collier, Finance Chair, NHDP and Honorary Chair 1999 100 Club

DNC Members
Anita Freedman
Senator Rick Trombly

~~Outgoing NHDP Executive Director, Jim Boyle~~

Talking Points:**Democratic Party Electoral Success in 1998:****Governor Shaheen gets 66%****Democrats capture the State Senate for the first time since 1912****Democrats pick up 11 seats in the House of Representatives****The Last time the President addressed the NH Democratic Party's 100 Club, there were 112 Democrats in the NH House, 6 Democrats in the State Senate and a**

Republican Governor. Today there are 153 Democrats in the House, Democrats control the Senate and Democrat Jeanne Shaheen is serving her 2nd term.

**REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
TO THE EMPLOYEES OF P.C. CONNECTION
Wednesday, February 3, 1999**

Hello, PC Connection! It's great to be here at PC Connections impressive new headquarters here at Post Road Plaza. I'm especially pleased to see how you've "recycled" this underused strip mall -- with new landscaping, a sky-lit galleria, a walking trail, and even a visitor's center where your customers can search for PC Connection products on the Internet.

I understand that you also have a special "time capsule" that includes memorabilia from PC Connection's past -- such as a Macintosh computer from the early 80's. In fact, I'm told that your Senior Vice President, Bob Wilkins, is hoping that some future technology will enable him to be here for the unveiling ceremony in 2098 *[NOTE: this joke is well-known...]*. Bob, all I can say is, I'm in favor of Vice Presidents sticking around as long as possible.

Here at one of New Hampshire's high-tech success stories, I want to share a small item you might appreciate. A few years ago, an airline magazine had a list of 31 signs that technology has taken over your life. According to the list, you know technology has taken over your life:

If you know your E-Mail Address -- but not your Social Security number.

If you rotate your screen saver more often than your tires.

If you've never sat through a movie without having at least one device on your body beep or buzz.

And my personal favorite, number 23: If Al Gore strikes you as an "intriguing" fellow.

I didn't get it.

[pause]

I'm here today for two reasons: first, to congratulate the employees of PC Connection on your stunning success these past 17 years -- and on the expansion that will create two hundred new jobs for this region. I know that 30 of you just started on Monday.

Second, I want to issue a challenge. Today, New Hampshire's economy is growing. But we cannot take that growth for granted. In a fast-changing computer industry -- with the computing power of microprocessors doubling every eighteen

months -- you know that if you rest on your laurels and keep offering the same old products, you'll soon be left in the dust. Our economy is the same way. It took a lot of hard work to build today's prosperity. Now we've got to work twice as hard to keep it going.

Let's not forget what this state was going through when President Clinton and I came to office. Back in 1992, the Granite state's economy had hit rock bottom. This state was losing 10,000 jobs every year. By 1993, when Alexander's Shop and Save moved out of Post Road Plaza, people started calling it "Ghost Road Plaza." The whole community was in decline.

Today, there is a new New Hampshire -- the state with the highest concentration of high-tech jobs in the entire nation, twice the national average. Today, the Granite State is also the Silicon State. [That must be why I like it here...people tell me I've been in a granite state all my life...] Thanks to your hard work and innovation, instead of losing 10,000 jobs a year, this state is now creating more than 12,000 jobs a year.

There's no better example of New Hampshire's change and progress than PC Connection. It all started back in 1982, when Pat Gallup wanted to buy her own PC, but had to drive more than two hours from Marlow just to find one. She thought: why not just sell them through the mail, so no one has to make that two-hour drive?

She started in an old woodworking mill in Marlow, with about \$8,000 in personal savings. In fact, she had to wait two days for the phone to ring once. But it hasn't stopped ringing since. By last year, that \$8,000 investment had become a \$732-million-a-year success story -- and PC Magazine's highest-ranked business in its category two years running!

Thank you, PC Connection, for keeping New Hampshire's jobs engine humming!

Across America, we are now celebrating the longest peacetime economic expansion in American history. How did we create all that new growth, and all those new jobs?

First of all, it is because we have as our president one of the greatest economic stewards this nation has seen -- President Bill Clinton.

It also took an aggressive, pro-growth strategy, merging three elements never before tried in combination: eliminate the deficit, open markets, and invest in our own people. We replaced the vicious cycle with a virtuous cycle -- lower interest rates, more investment, more jobs, more growth -- which fuels even greater

investment in our future. Six years ago, our economy was rated fifth in the world. Now, once again, America is number one in the world.

That is how we have gotten this far. Now, what do we need to do to keep our prosperity going into the 21st Century? I have a five-point plan:

First, we must maintain fiscal discipline. Today, for the first time in 30 years, we have balanced our budget. In fact, we have the largest surplus in our history. That lowers interest rates, and makes it possible for cutting-edge companies to borrow and expand. Therefore, my first principle is that, barring an economic reversal, a national emergency, or a foreign crisis, we must balance our budget -- or better -- every year.

Second, we must use good economic times to tackle tough, long-term economic problems -- and that means preparing for an aging society by saving Social Security and Medicare while we have the means and the will to do it. That is why President Clinton and I have proposed a bold plan to use the budget surplus to ensure the dignity of New Hampshire's seniors in retirement -- instead of draining it away on more spending or risky tax schemes.

Third, we must continue the hard work of cutting regulations and reforming and reinventing government -- so that it costs less, works better, and keeps pace with today's fast-moving economy. We call it REGO -- that's Gore spelled sideways -- and it has saved us \$137 billion, and made our federal workforce the smallest it has been since John Kennedy was President.

Fourth, we must invest even more in human capital -- particularly education and lifelong learning -- so that everyone a chance to succeed in a changing and growing economy.

Earlier today in Nashua, I spoke about the growing shortage of skilled workers in today's economy, and the need for more education and lifelong learning to meet that challenge. In fact, I know that one of the main reasons PC Connection made the move to Post Road Plaza was to make it easier to hire and keep skilled workers -- with greater access to Greater Nashua, Concord, and Manchester.

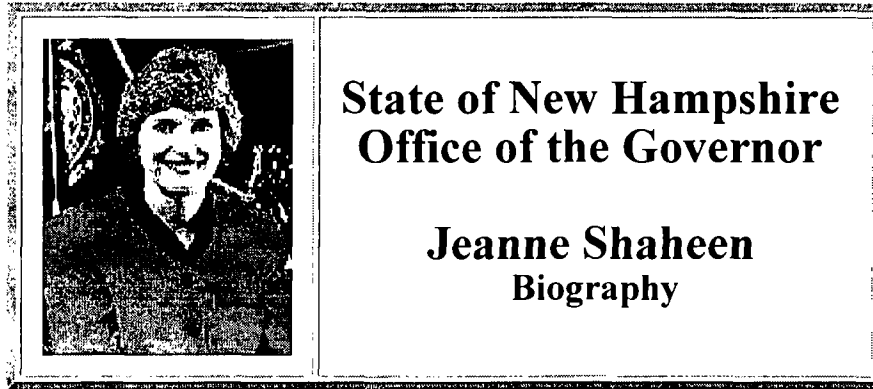
Because PC Connection has been such a leader in this area, today I am proud to announce that President Clinton is appointing Pat Gallup to our Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission -- a new leadership group of top business executives, labor leaders, educators, and community leaders to find new ways to dramatically expand lifelong learning. Pat, I look forward to your ideas, your energy, and your recommendations.

Fifth, America must remain engaged with the world. We must resist narrow

appeals to protectionism and isolationism, which only wall us off from prosperity itself. New Hampshire is now eighth in the nation in high-tech exports. This state's exports have grown by 89 percent since 1992, up to \$2.1 billion -- and those exports now support almost 25,000 good jobs here. That is why we will work to open more markets.

As we open the doors to global trade wider than ever before, we want to build a trading system that includes strong safeguards for workers, for health and safety, for children, and for a clean environment. And America is determined to lead in the world economy. With 96 percent of the world's consumers outside our borders, we must help to reverse the financial crisis that gives us fewer markets in which to sell our goods. With so many of the world's nations in recession right now, the best way we can do that is by keeping our own economy growing, steady and strong.

Here at PC Connection, we have a shining example of the economy we have worked so hard to build -- one that is built on innovation, on the skills of our people, and on the limitless horizons of a strong economy. With so much promise here at Post Road Plaza, why would we go back to failed policies of the past? I believe we must stick to the strategy that is working. We must charge ahead toward a new competitiveness in the 21st Century. And we must follow your example -- so we can replicate your success across America. Thank you.



Jeanne Shaheen lives in Madbury with her husband, Bill. They have three daughters: Stefany, 24; Stacey, 20; and Molly, 12. Before serving in public office, she managed several statewide campaigns, taught in public schools, and was a small business owner and manager.

She was first elected to the New Hampshire State Senate in 1990. During her three terms in the Senate, she focused on lowering electric rates, making health care more accessible and affordable, developing New Hampshire's economy, and improving public education. She made these issues the heart of her 1996 campaign for Governor, which she won with 57 percent of the vote to become the first woman Governor of New Hampshire.

As Governor, she made the establishment of statewide incentives for public kindergarten a priority. The legislature passed her plan in 1997, and since then 1,000 additional New Hampshire children have enrolled in public kindergartens. She created the Computers in the Schools initiative to get businesses involved in providing technology to schools. She signed into law a tax-deferred tuition savings plan to help families save for college. She supported important reforms to improve teaching, such as initiating teacher testing and creating a statewide report card on education so that parents and taxpayers can know how their schools measure up.

Governor Shaheen has worked closely with the business community to promote the state's major industries, expand trade and tourism, and attract new businesses. She was the first New Hampshire Governor to lead a trade mission outside of North America, which generated an estimated \$395 million in sales for New Hampshire businesses. She has greatly increased investments in promoting tourism, the state's second largest industry. She is bringing investors and entrepreneurs together to find new ways to finance the development of new businesses through venture capital. In her first year in office, New Hampshire created 16,000 new jobs.

Throughout her career, she has won landmark battles for health care reform. As Governor, she successfully championed a public-private partnership, the Children's Health Insurance Program, to make affordable health insurance available to 20,000 children who don't have it. She recently proposed the HMO Accountability Act to protect people who get their medical care through managed care organizations. Among her other achievements were legislation to stabilize health insurance rates, eliminate discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions, guarantee adequate hospital stays for women after childbirth, ensure patients in health management organizations greater choice of physicians, and provide tough new protections for HMO consumers.

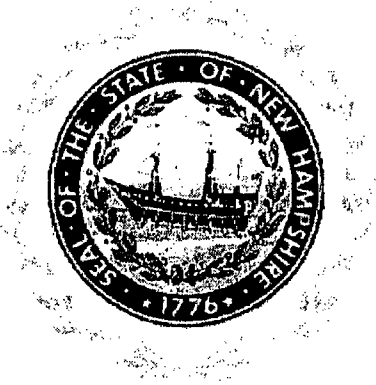
Governor Shaheen has been a longtime leader in the fight to lower New Hampshire's highest-in-the-nation electric rates. She co-sponsored legislation making New Hampshire the first state to pass a law to open its electricity industry to free market competition as a way of lowering electric bills. She negotiated the state's first settlement with a utility company, which lowered rates by 17 percent for customers in 21 communities. She actively opposed rate increases requested by Public Service Company of New Hampshire before the Public Utilities Commission.

Jeanne Shaheen was born January 28, 1947, in St. Charles, Missouri. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania in 1969 and her master's degree in political science from the University of Mississippi in 1973.

|| Governor Jeanne Shaheen ||

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November 1998*

<http://www.state.nh.us/governor/bio.html>



State Of New Hampshire
OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR

Jeanne Shaheen



INAUGURAL ADDRESS
Governor Jeanne Shaheen
January 7, 1999

Madame Speaker, Mr. President, Justice Nadeau, honorable members of the House and Senate and Executive Council, my fellow citizens:

I am thankful for the trust the people of New Hampshire have once again placed in me. And I am equally mindful that the oath I have just taken carries with it an obligation to cherish that sacred trust and to work every day to be worthy of it.

I'd like to commend you, Madame Speaker, for your many years of service to the people of New Hampshire. And I want to congratulate you, Senator Blaisdell, on your new role as President of the Senate.

We gather today in this, the nation's oldest state capitol that still serves as a legislative chamber, to mark New Hampshire's last inauguration of the 20th Century. It is an appropriate moment to look back and reflect on our history and traditions -- and to look ahead to build on those traditions as New Hampshire moves into the next century.

Throughout our history, we have been careful to preserve the traditions that make New Hampshire special, and we have been willing to change the things that need to be changed. That is the New Hampshire way.

In 1775, we were the first state to declare our independence from England, and four years later the first to hold a constitutional convention. In 1783, New Hampshire became the first state to require that its Constitution be put to a direct vote of the people.

We became the first state to allow voters a direct voice in choosing their presidential candidates in 1952. It was a bold step at the time to contend that those who wish to lead our great nation should come to a small state, meet its citizens, and answer their questions. But now, the New Hampshire presidential primary is itself a national tradition.

Our history is full of people who individually embodied the New Hampshire way.

John Dickson from Keene, who delivered the first speech against slavery in the United States Congress.

The eloquent defender of the Union, Daniel Webster, whose portrait looks down on us today.

Horace Greeley, who pointed the nation in a new direction - west.

There was Amos Tuck, who decided that the extraordinary times before the Civil War required new

political thinking - and laid the foundations of the Republican Party.

In our own time, there was Alan Shepard, the first American in space, who expanded our horizons into the universe. And Christa McAuliffe, who dared to be the first schoolteacher in space, inspiring us with her courage and sacrifice.

Closer to our own times, there was Alan Shepard, the first American into space, who expanded our horizons. And Christa McAuliffe, who dared to be the first schoolteacher in space. As we begin the last legislative session of the 20th century, let us remember all of them and the lessons they can still teach us as we are called upon to meet new challenges of the coming century.

Today, we live in a global economy, where our businesses must compete in a world marketplace and where far-away companies deliver goods and services to us in New Hampshire. Increasingly our economy is informational, not industrial. Good jobs depend on a highly trained and educated workforce.

Today, we live in a society where most parents work, and few people live in the same community where they were raised and went to school. We must meet the challenges of these changing times and determine what kind of state we want New Hampshire to be. It is up to us to create the kind of future we want.

We want a state where people have good jobs, where families are safe and healthy, and our children can inherit the natural and cultural resources that make the quality of our lives so special.

And yes, we want a state where all of our children get an excellent education, regardless of where they live.

There is much we can and must do.

We must keep our economy strong so that our people can continue to have good jobs. My administration has undertaken a comprehensive economic development plan for New Hampshire. We have brought together the talents of the business community, state government, and the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at UNH. Their recommendations will guide us as we work to meet the challenges of a changing economy.

Competition in the electric industry is essential for every consumer in this changing economy. Last year one utility moved forward with us, opening its territory to competition. Its customers now benefit from a rate cut of more than 17 percent.

Public Service Company of New Hampshire still resists, clinging to a past when utilities could pass on all their costs to ratepayers. As we move toward competition, we will not repeat the mistakes of ten years ago. We will not enter into an agreement with PSNH that gives all the burdens to ratepayers and all the benefits to shareholders.

The world has changed, and new technologies are becoming available. If PSNH refuses to adapt, it will be left behind.

We must ensure that parents can go to their jobs knowing their children are in good hands, and businesses must be able to depend on workers with young children. The Business Commission on Child Care, which I established last spring, will soon be making its recommendations on how businesses and child care providers can work together to ensure that every New Hampshire family has affordable, quality child care.

And parents should be able to go to sleep at night knowing their children can get health care when they need it. Beginning this week, families can sign up for our innovative Children's Health Insurance Program. Now we must reach out to the families of the 20,000 New Hampshire children who do not have health insurance, and work to make sure each of those children is covered.

And we must guarantee that patient care comes before corporate profits -- and pass the HMO

Accountability Act. We must make companies accountable here in New Hampshire for the decisions they make thousands of miles away about our medical care.

We must also remember that we live in the most beautiful state in the nation. From the changing leaves of autumn to the snowy mountains of winter, our state's rich natural resources are central to who we are in New Hampshire. The state should lead the way in protecting and preserving that natural heritage.

And we must not end this century without making Martin Luther King Day part of the heritage we leave to our children.

Most of all, our top priority must be educating our children. Quite simply, the excellence of the education we provide our children will determine New Hampshire's future - the strength of our economy, the quality of our lives, and the vibrancy of our democracy.

Nothing else is as important. Nothing else that we do now will have a greater impact on the future of this state.

This is not theory. This is real: as real as the face of a child.

Every parent knows that face - the face of their child, full of hope and a little uneasiness as he or she leaves for the first day of school, taking a step toward what every parent hopes will be a better life for the next generation.

Every teacher knows that face - the face of a student, full of eager questions and sometimes full of doubts, whose success or failure rests at least partly on the time and resources that teacher can provide.

And we here in this hall know that face, as mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters. We saw some of them at the start of this ceremony - children from the Garrison School kindergarten in Dover, one of 15 New Hampshire school districts that have implemented kindergarten because of the actions we took in 1997.

They represent the nearly 1,000 additional children who now have a better start in school, and a better future ahead of them. They are important reminders that what we do here has real consequences for real people. Today they led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. In the next century they will be leading New Hampshire.

Our task is to make the next century as bright and prosperous as possible by providing our children with an excellent education. That means making every New Hampshire school the best possible.

As we work to meet this challenge, we must remember that providing an excellent education takes more than money. We must raise educational standards and expect more from teachers, students and parents.

Building on the recommendations of my Education Summit, the Best Schools Initiative will help people at the local level meet the needs of their particular schools. The cornerstone of this initiative will be the establishment later this year of a new leadership academy for teachers, administrators and school board members.

While we work to improve professional development for teachers, we must also hold them to a high standard of performance. Last year, I established a task force to look at the issue of teacher tenure. Its recommendations form the basis for legislation that will make it easier to remove teachers who don't perform. We should pass that legislation this year.

We have also been called upon in this, the last legislative session of the 20th century, to meet the challenge of the Claremont school funding case. One year ago, the state Supreme Court ruled that the method of funding schools -- that we have relied on for decades -- is unconstitutional and must be changed.

Our challenge is to change the way we fund public education, without losing what is special about our

schools and our state. Our tradition of local decision-making has served us well, and we must preserve that local control. Businesses do choose to locate here because taxes are low and government is small, and we must keep it that way.

Our solution must serve our school children, our taxpayers and our economy.

We can all agree on certain principles: Every New Hampshire child should have the opportunity for an excellent education, regardless of where they live, and no community should have to struggle to educate its children because of burdensome property taxes. At a time when few people live and work in the same community where they went to school, it is in the interest of every person and every business to ensure that every community in New Hampshire has the resources necessary to provide an excellent education for our children.

For the last several months I have been meeting with the legislative leadership of both parties, and with many of you individually, to explore a variety of options. We have already taken steps to help communities deal with the short-term uncertainties caused by the Claremont decision. Yesterday, the House and Senate came together across party lines and passed legislation ensuring that local school districts can move forward with their budgeting and planning for the next school year.

Finding a long-term solution will not be easy. We have an enormous task before us, and precious little time to complete it. But I am confident we can succeed.

At a historic crossroads like this, a successful solution cannot be one imposed either on the legislature or on the people of this state. It will require finding consensus, not only among lawmakers but also among the people. We must lead, but we must also listen.

History teaches us that the New Hampshire way is to trust the people. Each time we have moved forward - from the initial design of our constitution to the creation of our first-in-the-nation presidential primary - we have listened to the people and given them a voice in their future.

Here in the state where citizens gather every spring for one of our most cherished traditions, town meeting, we have always believed that the voice of the people should be heard.

For any solution to succeed - and endure - it must be supported by the people of New Hampshire. That is why I believe that we should take the unprecedented step of giving the people a direct vote on this issue.

I believe they want us to solve the school funding issue within our existing tax structure, and I believe we can.

The people want us to put partisan politics aside, to use our common sense and apply our collective creativity to find a solution.

We can do it. We must do it. To do it right, we must do it together.

We do not always immediately agree. Sometimes we test each other's patience. Often, each of us is called upon to compromise a little bit. But in the end, what progress we make is always made together.

Working together is a New Hampshire story with a long tradition. It is the story of almost every town meeting. It is the lesson of the wonderful poem that we just heard by Robert Frost. And it is the story of the finest moments in the history of this citizen legislature.

This is one of those moments. Working together - that is what the people who elected us expect. That is what New Hampshire's children deserve.

Later this year, more than 100 New Hampshire performers and craftsmen will be showcasing our state's heritage on the National Mall in Washington as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. From contra dancing to constructing stone walls, from the spirit of entrepreneurship to the traditions of our presidential primary, they will gather under the theme, "Celebrating New Hampshire's Stories."

In the next few months, as we struggle with the historic task before us, let us find inspiration from these New Hampshire stories. It's easy to find if we listen closely enough.

It can be heard in the story of an old-time barn raising - and in the story of any successful high-tech business. It's in the story of the local committee that works to improve the library or to preserve an endangered woodland or to form a volunteer fire department.

When we work together, we can accomplish anything. That is the New Hampshire story.

It is now our turn to write our own chapter in that story. Let us make it a story that is remembered far into the next century. Let us make it a story worth celebrating. Let us write it together.

Thank you.

Governor Jeanne Shaheen

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State of New Hampshire Office of the Governor

Jeanne Shaheen

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- The Shaheen Kindergarten Construction Plan
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- Inaugural Address, January 9, 1997

|| Governor Jeanne Shaheen ||

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News - February 4, 1999

Shaheen supports \$913m education price tag

By John Toole
State House Bureau

CONCORD -- The Shaheen administration yesterday lined up behind a plan from Senate Democrats that pegs the state's education costs at about \$913 million.

Shaheen aide Judy Reardon said the governor was generally supportive of the approach, which Reardon saw as a "rational and positive way" to determine the state's costs.

Reardon simultaneously attacked House Republican leadership proposals that have put the price tag at least \$200 million lower. "It makes no sense to do what the House is now doing," Reardon said.

Meanwhile, Republican Sen. Ned Gordon of Bristol gained a key supporter for his \$800 million plan in Senate Finance Committee Vice-Chairman Fred King, R-Colebrook.

"That's a reasonable amount," King told the Senate Education Committee.

In the House, the Finance Committee, in a series of lopsided votes, embraced a subpanel's recommendations for killing a series of income and sales tax measures.

House floor votes are slated next week.

The committee also rejected a plan for video gaming at the race tracks on a 19-6 vote. That also is expected before the House next week.

The finance subpanel expected to resume work today and tomorrow on other proposals, including the House Republican leadership plan, the statewide property tax proposed by Rep. Frank Sapareto and the income-and-property tax sponsored by Rep. Liz Hager and Sen. Clifton Below.

The Senate Education Committee yesterday opened hearings on bills that try to establish the state's cost for providing an adequate education to public school students.

Action resumes 8:30 a.m. today at the State House, with the education panel set to hear from Sen. Jim Squires, R-Hollis, on his costing proposal.

The Senate Education Committee could issue recommendations as early as next week.

Senate President Clesson "Junie" Blaisdell, D-Keene, watched as Education Chairman Caroline McCarley, D-Rochester, and Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, D-Manchester, put forth the Senate Democrats' costing proposal yesterday.

A state Department of Education analysis of their proposal put the cost, including Sweepstakes aid, at about \$913 million.

D'Allesandro called the Senate Democratic plan "a better starting point for deliberations," than the House Republican leadership plan.

The Senate Democrats haven't yet defined funding sources.

This week House Speaker Donna Sytek, R-Salem, unveiled the \$711 million SMART Plan that would primarily rely on a statewide property tax to fund public schools.

Another House Republican leader, House Finance Chairman Neal Kurk, R-Weare, had previously sponsored a bill that set the state's minimum contribution to education at about \$630 million.

The SMART Plan and Kurk bill both apply a discount to total education costs as a filter for expenses Republicans believe are beyond what accounts for an adequate education.

McCarley ripped the discount approach. "They're not really grounded in anything at this point," McCarley said.

"It's simply not supportable," she said.

D'Allesandro said the state can't extract a discount and then expect school districts to accomplish anything.

The Senate Democrats' bill projects the average per pupil cost at \$4,700.

Reardon and state Department of Education officials told the Senate panel they believe the number is defensible before the Supreme Court.

The court has ruled unconstitutional the state's reliance on local property taxes to fund public schools and ordered the Legislature to come up with a new system by April.

Gov. Jeanne Shaheen has not put forth her own plan this year for solving the school funding crisis, but has supported giving voters a final say through a referendum.

The Senate Democrats' costing proposal drew support from the National Education Association-New Hampshire, the teacher's union, whose lobbyist, Dennis Murphy, applauded the lack of a discount.

The funding formula met with opposition, though, from advocates for the disabled and the state's school boards.

Sen. Gordon, meanwhile, saw in the Senate Democrats' proposal future battles over education aid related to the changing political makeup of the Legislature.

"This formula is going to continue to be a political formula," Gordon predicted.

State education officials estimate Gordon's plan, including Sweeps revenue, would run about \$800 million.

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News Digest

02/04/99

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Shaheen backs off pledge, talks broad-based taxes

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CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — With the deadline for a solution to the state's education funding fast approaching, Gov. Jeanne Shaheen has backed off her pledge to veto any broad-based tax.

"Unfortunately, the way the court has set up the requirements ... I think it is very difficult, if not impossible, to get to the amount that is going to be required without including the property tax in some way," Shaheen told reporters Wednesday. "You can't get to \$700 million or \$800 million or \$900 million, or whatever the total amount is, without being able to use the property tax or some broad-based tax."

Although uncollected since the 1930s, a statewide property tax has been part of New Hampshire law since 1919.

"I certainly think we have on the books a statewide property tax, and that's going to be some component of the final solution," Shaheen said.

Sytek, a long-time opponent of any broad-based tax, recently unveiled her solution to the funding problem, and it included a statewide property tax of \$8.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Republican state Chairman Steve Duprey immediately pointed out Shaheen's pledge during her election campaigns to veto any broad-based tax.

"Steve Duprey doesn't have to comply with the Supreme Court position," Shaheen said. "I expect him to attack whatever I do."

The governor echoed Sytek when asked about violating the pledge: "We need to come up with a resolution to Claremont" that will keep the schools open and keep the state government operating, she said.

The high court has found the state's current heavy reliance on

local property taxes to pay for education unfair to poorer communities and unconstitutional as it ruled in favor of Claremont and four other property-poor communities. It gave the state until April of this year to find a better way.

Sytek's proposal may not be that resolution, Shaheen said. But she said she believes it deserves further exploration.

Shaheen said her biggest concern was Sytek's \$711 million proposal sets the statewide cost of an adequate education too low.

Shaheen said she also was concerned about the long-term viability of some of the revenue in Sytek's plan, although she was happy it included a 25-cent per pack tobacco tax increase.

Shaheen would like to see slot machines at the state race tracks allowed as part of the solution, a plan Sytek has promised to fight.

"I think it would be unfortunate for us to kill that potential source of revenue because somebody has some philosophical opposition to gambling. I think that is not a prudent way to solve this issue," Shaheen said.

The House Finance Committee recommended killing the gambling proposal Wednesday.

Although she isn't offering her own education funding solution at the moment, Shaheen said she expects to be a player in the end. She said she doesn't expect the solution to be any of the proposals currently on the table, at least not in their present form.

"It will probably be a combination of things," she said. "I expect to be very involved in determining what the final resolution is."

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Sytek plan draws protests from property-rich and poor towns

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PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — A proposed statewide education property tax is highway robbery, according to towns that now pay lower taxes.

But poor communities say it's not enough, and wouldn't even raise the amount of money they now spend on less-than-adequate schools.

The SMART plan proposed by House Speaker Donna Sytek relies on a statewide tax of \$8.50 per \$1,000 property valuation to raise most of the \$711 million she says is necessary for an adequate education. It would yield \$3,700 per pupil.

Most towns would pay lower school taxes, but a few communities would pay more.

Sytek's plan is in response to a state Supreme Court ruling that the Legislature must figure out the cost of an adequate education and a "fair and equitable" way to pay for it by April 1.

At a meeting sponsored by the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Portsmouth Mayor Evelyn Sirrell said city residents would end up sending \$3.7 million to the state each year to subsidize schools in other communities.

"A so-called property-rich community does not mean the majority of its citizens are wealthy," Sirrell said. "A statewide property tax, specifically the one proposed by the speaker of the house, would be devastating to Portsmouth."

Kent LaPage, a member of the Portsmouth School Board, said the statewide property tax would increase Rye's school taxes 83 percent, while taxes in Seabrook and Newcastle would double.

At Robbins' General Store in Moultonboro, many customers also registered their protests.

"People are mad," said Rosie Blake, the store's co-owner. "They're all saying, 'Why should they choose certain towns to pay for everybody else?'"

Many Lakes Region communities also have low school taxes now, since they have relatively few families with school age children. Many homes are vacation homes or owned by retirees. Residents argue higher property taxes would hurt tourism and the businesses dependent on it.

"This whole business is nothing more than a Robin Hood scheme," said Richard Patten, a Moultonboro resident.

But officials in the five districts that sued over the lack of state aid for education said that although Sytek's plan would deliver property tax relief, it would not raise enough money for an adequate education.

In Allenstown, one of the five districts, per-pupil spending already is \$3,900 and school officials do not consider it adequate. Most districts spend closer to \$6,000 now.

Kathy Fuller, chairwoman of the Franklin School Board, said she doesn't just want property tax relief.

"I want to improve programs," she said. "I'm looking for something to bring the figure of per-pupil up."

Arthur Morse, a Pittsfield School Board member, said any state plan would have to raise at least \$900 million to help schools. More than \$1.2 billion is now spent from all sources, with the great majority coming from widely varying local property taxes.

"The court's order is not to pay for part of adequacy. The court's order is to pay for adequacy," he said.

News - February 5, 1999

Shaheen 'Pledge' comment slammed, defended

By John Toole

State House Bureau

CONCORD -- Conservative critics say Gov. Jeanne Shaheen flip-flopped on her pledge to veto broad-based taxes this week, but a top aide disagrees.

"People are going to characterize what she does whatever way they want," Shaheen legal counsel Judy Reardon said yesterday.

"But she hasn't made any decisions on revenue sources. And she still believes that a Michigan-style, binding referendum process that gives people a choice makes the most sense," Reardon said.

Reardon acknowledged, however, that Shaheen "believes we may need to rely on the property tax to some extent to meet our obligations under Claremont II."

Here's what Shaheen said at a Wednesday press conference about a solution to the school funding crisis: "Unfortunately, the way the court has set up the requirements...I think it is very difficult, if not impossible, to get to the amount that is going to be required without including the (statewide) property tax in some way."

The statewide property tax has been on the books since 1913, but uncollected since the Depression.

"You can't get to \$700 million or \$800 million or \$900 million or whatever the total amount is, without being able to use the property tax or some broad-based tax," the governor told reporters.

'Flip-flop'

State Republican Party Chairman Steve Duprey saw it as a flip-flop.

"For Gov. Shaheen to campaign pledging and guaranteeing to veto any broad-based tax, knowing full well she intended to break that pledge, is a disgrace. It is one the voters will long remember," Duprey said.

"It was expected but disappointing," Granite State Taxpayers legislative director Roy Stewart said yesterday.

"But we kind of figured she was renegeing in (the gubernatorial) debates when she said there would be no 'new' broad-based taxes. And this (property tax) is already on the books," Stewart said.

"It's the break-your-promise year," said Sen. Patricia Krueger, R-Manchester, upon hearing the governor's comments.

Krueger was already upset that House Speaker Donna Sytek, a Republican, had dodged a question on "The Pledge" while promoting reactivation of the statewide property tax this week.

"Let's concentrate on solving the problem, not categorizing," Sytek had said.

For more than a generation "The Pledge" has been a theme and debating point in gubernatorial campaigns.

Shaheen and Republican Party nominee Jay Lucas battled over "The Pledge" in a televised debate last fall.

"Governor, will you guarantee under no circumstance during your term that there will not be a broad-based tax?" Lucas asked.

"Jay, maybe you just don't hear," Shaheen replied. "The fact is I have pledged to veto any new broadbased tax. I don't know how much clearer you can say it. I will guarantee that we will have no new broadbased tax."

No guarantee

Afterwards Lucas told reporters Shaheen didn't offer a guarantee against reactivating the statewide property tax. But Shaheen insisted a statewide property tax was included.

Last night, Lucas said, "One thing I don't want to say, but probably should, is, 'I told you so.'"

"I take no glee in this," he said. "It's sad to see public officials renege on an important commitment like this. I promised no new taxes and I meant it. She promised no new taxes, but she meant not until after the election."

"This violation of a commitment will rip the heart out of local control," Lucas said.

Last month, the governor was criticized when she failed to renew her pledge in her inaugural address.

When House Republican leaders proposed a statewide property tax as part of the school funding solution this week, Duprey called attention to Shaheen's pledge.

"Steve Duprey doesn't have to comply with the Supreme Court position. I expect him to attack whatever I do," Shaheen said at the press conference.

"The governor shouldn't be angry with me. She's the one who made the pledge three short months ago

to veto any broad-based tax and she's the one who has broken the pledge," Duprey said.

"I expect the voters to be a lot angrier with the governor for breaking the pledge than she is with me for pointing it out," Duprey said.

At no point during her press conference did Shaheen say she would sign a broad-based tax into law. But neither did she renew her pledge to veto one.

"She said what she said," Reardon said. "What's going to matter is what the final package is."

Shaheen supporters thought the governor was just being realistic in her observations.

"I agree with her," said Senate Vice-President John King, D-Manchester. "It's going to be difficult, almost impossible, to arrive at that amount of dollars without a broad-based tax...the chickens have come home to roost."

No blame

Republican Rep. James Pilliod of Belmont also said he does not blame Shaheen for backing off on her pledge to oppose any broad-based tax.

"What she's really saying is, 'I know what everybody wants, but the rules are different. Let's get a reasonable, fair and widespread tax that won't hurt those who can't pay,'" Pilliod said.

He also applauded Shaheen for her political courage in changing her mind about a broad-based tax.

"I think that's great political courage in this state, but it's the right thing to do," he said.

But state Rep. Thomas Boriso, R-Meredith, criticized Shaheen's change of heart, saying a statewide property tax would hurt those who could least afford it.

"In my community, they can't afford to pay their taxes now," Boriso said. "If it comes right down to it, I'm going to vote against it."

Meanwhile, Reardon yesterday said the House should seek a legal opinion from the Supreme Court regarding the proposed use of a "discount" House Republican leaders would apply to education costs to filter expenses they believe are beyond the price tag for providing an adequate education to public school students.

"The House should request an advisory opinion on the discounting step," Reardon said. "If that gets enacted, we'll have to go through this whole process again next year."

Reardon told the Senate Finance Committee this week that the governor is generally supportive of the costing approach used by Senate Democrats that doesn't include a discount.

An analysis by state education officials pegged the cost of the Senate Democratic plan around \$913 million.

But Reardon stressed yesterday that while the governor is supportive of the approach the Democrats use she hasn't committed yet to a bottomline on education funding.

"The governor would be the happiest person on the planet if we could get away with this for \$711 million," Reardon said, referring to the House Republican leadership's SMART Plan price tag.

"But we can't. (House Finance Chairman) Neal Kurk knows that and the Speaker knows that," Reardon said.

Return to Today's News.

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He will be at the Club 100 Dinner!

FAX MESSAGE

SENT TO:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ *President Clinton*

FROM:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Nicholas, Center Ossipee, NH 03814

PAGES:

4

*My original letter to help
you in '92.
Nicholas,*

Wednesday, October 28, 1992

TO THE EDITOR
VOTE BILL CLINTON
 FOR PRESIDENT
 I KNOW HE IS
 THE BEST LISTEN TO
 ME. NICHOLAS VARNEY
 AGE - 6 BERRY
 CENTER OSS�PEE

Ossipee

Going to Clintonland

Mickey dumped for Bill

JAREAH FISCHER
For staff

OSSIPEE - Nicholas Varney-Berry and his mother, Gaye Berry, have been planning a vacation for quite awhile. When it came down to deciding where to go, she suggested Disney World.

To most 6-year-olds, this would be a dream come true. But to this third-grader from Ossipee, there was a place far better than Disney World - Hot Springs, Ark. Nicholas was invited to spend a week - all expenses paid, excluding fare - in the hometown of his biggest idol, President Bill Clinton.

Instead of meeting Mickey Mouse, he'd rather meet the Clinton Connection. Instead of riding Space Mountain, he'd rather spend a day at school. Clinton attendees have dinner at the president's BBQ, one of Clinton's favorite haunts, have lunch at the Governor's Mansion. Besides, said Nicholas, "Florida's got too much crime."

Nicholas would stun anyone who meets him with his political consciousness and tremendous admiration for the president. Don't let his toothy smile, strawberry-blonde hair and freckle-red face fool you. He may be small, but he may be the president's biggest fan - and youngest.

Nicholas's relationship with the president began two years ago, when Clinton was a Come Home to America candidate trying to win a tough battle. Nicholas and his mother spoke in Portland, Maine, and knew if he could vote, it would be for the man with the gray hair and a funny accent.

"I knew he would be a good president from the start," he said. "I liked everything he said." It's funny how a child sees people," said Gaye Berry. "From the beginning he thought he was sincere. It was almost like Clinton was with Jackie Kennedy."

After Clinton left Portland, Nicholas went into



Nicholas Varney-Berry, 6, may be Bill Clinton's biggest little fan.

the local mall and began campaigning. Dressed in a suit and tie and covered in Clinton/Gore pins, Nicholas flew through the mall shouting "Four more months! Vote for Clinton!"

Although it would be 12 years before he could vote, Nicholas also wrote a short letter to the editor of his local newspaper announcing his endorsement. The letter was not typed and appeared in the same handwriting in which the 6-year-old had written it.

This caught the attention of Jan Paschal, a

See BOY - Page A-10

long-time friend of the president's who is now a deputy with the U.S. Department of Education for New England. She encouraged his campaign efforts and later set him up with tickets to the inauguration ceremony, which unfortunately he couldn't make it to. But he did meet the president once again and received two letters from him - one wishing him a happy birthday and another thanking him for his support.

Nicholas also designed his own Christmas card with a picture of himself standing in front of a sign that said "jobs available" and a message reading "I believe in a place called Hope." Paschal set Nicholas up for this trip to Arkansas, which he leaves for today and where one of his visits will be to the town of Hope.

"I like how Clinton's been running the country," said Nicholas. "I like how he's trying to take guns away from people and trying to take Beavis and Butt-head off the TV."

Nicholas's trip will be paid for by the Clinton Connection, friends of the president and the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, said Gaye Berry. Among his long list of planned activities is sitting in on a meeting with the Breakfast Club, of which Virginia Kelley, Clinton's mother, was a prominent part.

Nicholas will bring his suits and ties with him, which he loves to wear, and said he has practiced the wave he will do as he steps out of the plane. "I'll wave like Bill Clinton," he said as his small hand moved through the air in front of an imaginary crowd of thousands. "I'll even make a speech if they'll let me."

Although the president will not be in town, Nicholas is ready to talk politics with his colleagues. He always catches the daily news and watches CNN, C-SPAN and Larry King Live. He's also been known to call up talk shows and voice his opinions. During the presidential campaign, he called Ross Perot's

hot-line and expressed his disappointment with what Perot was saying about Clinton.

He also called *Hard Copy* one night after a segment on the death of Jackie Kennedy in which viewers over 18 were urged to call in with their comments. Nicholas's was that "you don't have to be 18 to feel bad," he said.

He also thinks you shouldn't have to be 18 to run for office. He said he plans to run at age 10 - as a Democrat - and even though he'll be underage, he says he will get in there somehow.

At school, he tries to instill presidential respect in all of his classmates. His grandmother labels Nicholas a leader and said she has tried to instill a positive attitude in him. She has raised him almost since he was born.

Nicholas was born with a hole in his heart and will some day need surgery. While his condition doesn't limit him and isn't life-threatening, his grandmother believes it does make him want to live life to the fullest. "He's very determined," she said. "What he's been through has made him that way. He's so self-sufficient."

Although Nicholas's passion for politics was mainly self-generated, his grandmother has always been a Kennedy fan, she said, and she doesn't hide her favoritism for the Democratic party.

Nicholas said he will be president one day, just like Clinton and Kennedy. He recently attended a town meeting to protest changing his road name for 911 service. He stood up and told the crowd that name changes would just mean confusion. He is also an honorary member of the Ossipee Police Department, where he goes by "Sargent Nick" and has marched in parades for victims of child abuse and homeless children.

"He listens to everything," said his grandmother. "He's aware of life - the good and the bad. He makes us aware, too, of how precious life is."

Eight-year-old from Ossipee heading for Clinton country

OSSIPEE - An Ossipee Central School third-grader's forthcoming visit to Arkansas is one more leg of an ongoing journey by a young but politically conscious student.

Nicholas Varney-Berry is only 8, but two years ago, during Bill Clinton's successful presidential campaign, a letter he wrote to a newspaper editor caught the attention of Jan Paschal.

Paschal was in Meredith then, but she is now deputy director of the Department of Education for the New England region.

With that connection and his unabashed support for the former

Arkansas governor, Nicholas was on his way.

He managed a front-row spot in Portland, Maine, when Clinton flew in for a campaign stop, and was awestruck by the experience.

Nicholas wouldn't leave the Jetport until Clinton's plane had disappeared.

At the Maine Mall he cheerfully
Nick page 28

•Nick

from page 1

asked everyone in sight to vote for Clinton, and despite some booing and heckling along the way, Nicholas has maintained his belief in the president.

His grandmother, Gaye Berry, said, "Nick was taught at an early age to never back down from what he truly believed in, stand your ground, for your belief will account for something in some way."

Nicholas now has personal letters from President Clinton, along with several photographs snapped when he presented Clinton with a homemade banner at a Manchester rally.

As he, Miss New Hampshire and the president were grouped for photographer, Nicholas told Clinton, "You'll have to autograph my baseball cap now, as I have a home-run derby to get to to raise money for my team."

Clinton's inaugural festivities resulted in more memorabilia for the Ossipee youth.

Now he's getting ready to visit the president's home state shortly after the November election, and it promises to be a busy time.

Luncheon is planned with the Clinton Connection and the Birthday Club, of which the president's mother, Virginia Kelley, is a prominent part.

Nicholas will also visit McLard's BBQ, a favorite haunt of the president's when he is at home, as well as the famous "war room" from which Clinton's campaign was coordinated.

Other activities include a documentary film festival, a visit to an ice cream parlor where the president once could buy a cone for 10 cents, and a visit with a third-grade class in the president's former school.



Nicholas Varney-Berry gets ready to knock one out of the park for President Bill Clinton.

Nicholas' one-time comment to the effect that he would rather go to Arkansas for vacation "as there is too much crime in Florida," probably won't lose him any friends in the Razorback State.

The fact that the youngster loves cornbread and spicy food may also ensure a pleasant stay in Arkansas.