



# **William J. Clinton Presidential History Project**

## **Briefing Materials**

**Richard Riley**

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**Prepared by Jill Abraham, Research Assistant**  
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## **RICHARD W. RILEY TIMELINE**

*Prepared by Jill Abraham*

*Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/24/2004*

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- 1954** Riley receives his B.A. in Political Science from Furman University. (Jeffrey B. Trammell and Gary P. Osifchin, eds., *The Clinton 500: The New Team Running America 1994*, Washington, D.C.: Almanac Publishing, Inc., 1994, p. 201)
- 1954-1956** Riley serves as an officer on a U.S. Navy minesweeper. (*USA Today*, 02/22/1993)
- 1959** Riley earns his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 201)
- Riley serves as Legal Counsel for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 201)
- 1960-1963** Riley practices law in South Carolina. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 201)
- 1963-1967** Riley serves as a South Carolina State Representative. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 201)
- 1967-1977** Riley is elected South Carolina State Senator. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 201)
- 1978-1986** Riley serves as Governor of South Carolina. During his tenure as Governor, Riley works closely with Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas on the National Governors Association education reform agenda. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 201)
- 1980** President Jimmy Carter appoints Riley to head the newly formed State Planning Council. Carter says the Council's purpose is to "advise the executive branch and work with the Congress in finding better ways to address radioactive waste management issues." (*The Washington Post*, 02/13/1980)
- 1987-1992** Riley is Senior Partner at the law firm Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in South Carolina. (Trammell and Osifchin, p. 201)
- 1992**
- November* Governor Clinton defeats George H.W. Bush in the presidential election.

## ***Riley: 1993-1994***

President-elect Clinton names Riley to head the transition's search for sub-Cabinet appointments. (*The Washington Post*, 11/18/1992)

### ***December***

Clinton nominates Riley to serve as Secretary of Education. (*The New York Times*, 12/18/1992)

Clinton, along with Riley and other government officials and intellectuals, attend the annual "Renaissance Weekend," held in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Philip Lader, the founder of Renaissance Weekends, describes them as "retreats for an 'extended family' committed to the transforming power of ideas and relationships, with the objective of personal and national renewal." (*The Washington Post*, 12/28/1992)

## **1993**

### ***January***

The Senate confirms Riley's appointment as secretary of education. (*The New York Times*, 01/22/1993)

### ***February***

Riley addresses the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU). He tells the group that, due to a large budget deficit, it is not possible to raise the maximum student grant given to needy college students. He also states that the Administration will have to pursue a scaled-back version of the National Service Trust Fund. Some critics claim that this constitutes a deviation from Clinton's campaign promises to double the amount of financial aid for higher education and to spend billions on a national service program. (*The Washington Post*, 02/05/1993)

Riley and Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich announce plans to restructure the U.S. high school system to move students directly from high school into the workforce, thereby creating an "in-between tier" of worker technicians and paraprofessionals without college degrees. (*The Washington Post*, 02/23/1993)

In testimony before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Riley and Reich announce the Administration's Summer Youth Challenge initiative, which would place two million youths in the nation's 100 poorest areas in summer jobs or in summer school. (*The Washington Post*, 02/25/1993)

### ***March***

In a letter to the presidents of colleges and universities receiving federal funds, Riley announces his support for race-based scholarships. Race-based scholarships had been banned by the Bush Administration since 1990, when President Bush's Assistant Education Secretary Michael Williams announced that such scholarships violate the Civil Rights Act of

## ***Riley: 1993-1994***

1964 because they constitute a form of race-based discrimination. (*The Washington Post*, 03/19/1993)

### ***April***

Riley joins Clinton in presenting the Teacher of the Year Award in the Rose Garden at the White House. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 04/20/1993)

Riley and Reich unveil the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, which includes a proposal to establish six voluntary national educational standards. (*The New York Times*, 04/22/1993)

### ***May***

Riley testifies before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on the Goals 2000: Educate America Act. (*The Washington Post*, 05/04/1993)

At the White House, Riley and Clinton address representatives of 228 Blue Ribbon Schools. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 05/14/1993)

### ***June***

Clinton nominates Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the United States Supreme Court. *The New York Times* reports that the president initially asked Riley to consider filling the Court vacancy, but Riley refused. (*The New York Times*, 06/15/1993)

### ***August***

Clinton sends the School-to-Work Program legislation to Congress. The bill, which Riley and Reich worked together to develop and promote, would help students who do not plan to enter college to move from high school into skilled jobs. (*1993 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1994, pp. 408-409)

Clinton signs the 1993 Omnibus Budget-Reconciliation Act into law. The Act creates the Direct Student Loan Program, which is intended to cut red tape and administrative costs by removing banks, guarantee agencies and other institutions from the process. Riley assembles a group to help design the technology necessary to run the new student loan system. He states, "We can absolutely make the system more streamlined, more simple, more easy to work with as far as the student is concerned." (*1993 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, pp. 410-411)

### ***September***

Riley and Reich travel with Clinton to address the Opportunity Skyway School-to-Work Program in Georgetown, Delaware. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 09/03/1993)

Clinton signs the National Service Act into law. This legislation creates the AmeriCorps program, providing students financial assistance for

## ***Riley: 1993-1994***

postsecondary education in exchange for performing community service. (*1993 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 400)

In a news conference, Riley remarks that there has been almost no improvement in America's schools in the last four years. (*The Washington Post*, 10/01/1993)

### ***October***

Clinton appoints Riley to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, which was formed in the 1970s in order to promote better relations between the various levels of government. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 10/18/1993)

Clinton appoints Riley to the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 10/20/1993)

### ***November***

At a news conference, Riley releases a list of 105 colleges selected to take part in the initial phase of the Direct Student Loan Program. Riley also addresses criticism regarding the managerial capacity of the Education Department to handle this program, saying, there will be a "higher level of management" than has characterized previous administrations. (*The Washington Post*, 11/16/1993)

Riley delivers a speech at Hine Junior High School on Capitol Hill, urging parents to "slow down the pace of their lives to help their children." He also remarks, "I am sick and tired of bashing school systems" for the social problems that originate with the home and family. (*The Washington Post*, 11/24/1993)

## **1994**

### ***January***

The General Accounting Office (GAO) issues a report finding that race-based scholarships are "valuable tools for recruiting and retaining racial or ethnic minority students." (*The New York Times*, 01/15/1994)

Riley travels to Southern California to tour school sites damaged by an earthquake. He promises \$10 million in funding from the Education Department to assist the affected schools with food, transportation and counseling costs. (*The Washington Post*, 01/22/1994, 01/24/1994)

### ***February***

Before a group of hundreds of educators assembled at Georgetown University, Riley delivers his first "State of American Education" address, in which he outlines the Administration's education agenda for the upcoming year. Riley emphasizes initiatives that would help parents become more involved in the lives of their children. (*The Washington Post*, 02/16/1994)

## ***Riley: 1994***

Riley announces the Administration's policy on minority scholarships, stating, "We want the doors to post-secondary education to remain open for minority students....This policy achieves a goal in a manner that is consistent with the law." (*The Washington Post*, 02/18/1994)

Clinton and Riley deliver remarks on the signing of the Executive Order on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, which establishes a commission to evaluate and improve the performance of Hispanic American students. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 02/22/1994)

### ***March***

Riley testifies before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee regarding the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (*The Washington Post*, 03/02/1994)

At a news conference, Riley announces a program of voluntary national standards for arts education, as part of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act. Under these standards, every American high school graduate is to have working knowledge of dance, music, theater, and the visual arts and is to be skilled in one artistic form. (*The Washington Post*, 03/12/1994)

Riley testifies before the House Appropriations Committee regarding special education institutes for the disabled. (*The Washington Post*, 03/22/1994)

Clinton signs the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, formalizing the six voluntary national education standards proposed by Clinton along with two others added by the House of Representatives. The Act also establishes a 19-member National Education and Improvement Council to develop national curriculum content and student performance standards. In addition, the Act provides for voluntary opportunity-to-learn standards, which establish what schools need to provide students, in terms of materials, supplies, teacher qualifications, and physical surroundings, to meet the curriculum and performance standards. Riley joins the president for the signing of the bill in San Diego, California. (*1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1995, pp. 397-398; *The Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 03/31/1994)

### ***April***

In New Orleans, Riley delivers a speech to 7,000 school board members on the topic of violence in schools. The Administration is seeking \$100 million from Congress for schools to pay for metal detectors, other safety measures, and after-school programs. (*The Washington Post*, 04/12/1994)

### ***May***

Clinton signs the School-to-Work Program legislation into law. (*1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 400)

## ***Riley: 1994***

Clinton signs legislation providing funds for expanding the Head Start program and improving its quality. The legislation also creates the Early Head Start program for children from ages 0-3. (*The Washington Post*, 05/19/1994)

Riley testifies before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, regarding the Communications Act of 1994 and the improved educational opportunities that can be attained through newly emerging electronic technologies. (*The Washington Post*, 05/25/1994)

### ***September***

Riley delivers a speech to the National Press Club, where he announces that the Education Department is planning a major initiative to promote parental involvement in education. (*The Washington Post*, 09/08/1994)

### ***October***

The Education Department announces that Riley has prostate cancer, in the earliest stages, and will undergo surgery. (*The New York Times*, 10/18/1994)

Clinton signs into law the Improving America's Schools Act, reauthorizing the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Act requires that disadvantaged students be held to the same standards as all students and requires states to improve low-performing schools. The final version, however, did not adopt an Administration proposal to give the nation's poorer schools more money under Title I, thereby lessening the funding of more affluent schools. The Gun Free Schools Act is also adopted as part of this legislation. This policy requires that school districts expel for one year students who bring guns to school, or else lose federal funding. (*1994 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 383; *The Washington Post*, 10/23/1994)

### ***November***

In the mid-term congressional elections, Republicans win control of the House and Senate.

Riley returns to his office after recovering from prostate cancer surgery. (*The Washington Post*, 11/22/1994)

### ***December***

Clinton and Riley deliver remarks during the President's Radio Address. Riley discusses education as a top priority in the Middle Class Bill of Rights, which the president recently proposed. The Middle Class Bill of Rights would, among other proposals, make \$10,000 of college tuition per year tax deductible. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 12/17/1994)

## **1995**

## ***Riley: 1995***

### ***January***

Riley testifies for three hours before the House Economic and Educational Opportunity Committee. The Committee's Chairman, Representative William F. Goodling (R-PA), says that he wants to reexamine some of the Clinton Administration education programs to make sure that states are not overly burdened with regulations. (*The Washington Post*, 01/13/1995)

Lamar Alexander, Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush, and William J. Bennett, Secretary of Education under President Ronald Reagan, testify before the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee. They promote the abolition of the Education Department, saying it is limited in its ability to help the country's schools. (*The Washington Post*, 01/27/1995)

### ***February***

Riley delivers his annual State of American Education speech, where he continues to counter arguments made in favor of abolishing the Department of Education. He also addresses criticisms of the Administration's education policies, particularly Goals 2000. (*USA Today*, 02/02/1995)

Riley accompanies Clinton to San Francisco to address the American Council on Education. In his remarks, the president states, "Dick Riley...is responsible for the fact that we had the most successful year last year in promoting advances in education in the Congress in at least 30 years, and I thank him for that." (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 02/14/1995)

### ***April***

Clinton and Riley travel to Los Angeles, California to speak at the National Education Association School Safety Summit. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 04/08/1995)

### ***May***

The House passes a bill that would eliminate the National Education Standards and Improvement Council, which was to review education standards of the states that participated in Goals 2000. However, a companion bill is not considered in the Senate. (*1995 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1996, p. 8-11)

### ***June***

Clinton vetoes the \$16.4 billion package of spending cuts proposed by Congress. Under the proposal, the funding for AmeriCorps, Goals 2000, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, and the School-to-Work programs would have been cut. (*USA Today*, 06/08/1995)

The Education Department launches a national campaign called Read-Write-Now, which is the largest education initiative in the history of the Department. The aim of the campaign is to encourage children to read 20 minutes per day during the summer months. Riley says that the summer



## ***Riley: 1995***

months are “a critical time when some of them lose the skills they learn over the school year.” (*USA Today*, 06/21/1995)

### ***July***

The General Accounting Office (GAO) releases a report stating that merging the Departments of Education and Labor would save the federal government approximately \$1.6 billion, mostly by eliminating 4,000 jobs. However, the report also states that the downsizing must be preceded by extensive planning in order for the savings to be realized. (*The Washington Post*, 07/10/1995)

In a “Memorandum on Religious Expression in Public Schools,” addressed to Riley and Attorney General Janet Reno, Clinton outlines principles of religious expression in schools. He states that students are free to pray and discuss religion in a non-coercive manner, but schools cannot endorse religious activity or doctrine. Clinton states, “I hereby direct the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Attorney General, to use appropriate means to ensure that public school districts...are informed, by the start of the coming school year, of these interpretations....” (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 07/12/1995)

### ***August***

In response to Clinton’s “Memorandum on Religious Expression in Public Schools,” Riley distributes a letter to the nation’s superintendents making them aware of the President’s policies on handling religious expression in public schools. (*USA Today*, 08/22/1995)

### ***October***

Riley criticizes the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee for failing to protect \$1.8 billion in federal money used as a reserve against faulty loans by transferring it instead to student loan guaranty agencies. The Committee soon after abandons its proposal. (*The New York Times*, 10/11/1995, 10/17/1995)

At a news conference, Riley touts the progress of the Gun-Free Schools Act. He states, “We know that zero-tolerance laws work....Schools that have implemented zero-tolerance policies have seen fewer weapons in their classrooms and fewer crimes.” (*The New York Times*, 10/27/1995)

### ***November***

The House and Senate reach a compromise proposal, as part of the deficit-reducing budget-reconciliation bill, which would cap the federal direct student loan program at 10 percent of student loan volume. The program currently reaches 40 percent of loan volume. Riley classifies the plan as “outrageous” and states that the plan only serves to protect the interests of private lenders. He says, “By capping direct lending at 10 percent...the congressional majority contradicts every stated goal of its so-called Contract with America: smaller government, less red tape, more

## ***Riley: 1995-1996***

competition and more choice for consumers.” (*USA Today*, 11/09/1995; *1995 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 8-9)

### ***December***

Riley, along with other Irish-American members of Congress and the executive branch, accompany Clinton on a diplomatic trip to Ireland. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 12/01/1995)

Clinton vetoes Congress’s deficit-reducing budget-reconciliation bill, which includes major cuts in education spending. Clinton states, “This budget cuts education by \$30 billion, even in this high-technology age, when education is more important than ever.” (*USA Today*, 12/11/1995; *1995 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 8-9)

## **1996**

### ***February***

At a news conference, Riley states that the current budget deadlock could result in cuts of \$1 billion in education funding, and would very severely affect the Title I program. He says, “It is baffling to me how elected officials, who talk about our obligation to the next generation, are so willing to take away the assistance that youngsters need in reading and math.” (*The New York Times*, 02/02/1996)

Clinton signs the Telecommunications Act of 1996 into law. The Act adopts the E-rate program, which provides low-cost Internet connections to schools. (*The Washington Post*, 02/09/1996)

Clinton issues the “Memorandum on the Manual on School Uniforms,” which promotes the benefits of uniforms and describes how schools can go about implementing uniform policies. The Memorandum also directs Riley to distribute the Manual to each of the nation’s school districts. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 02/24/1996)

Riley delivers his annual State of American Education speech. In the speech, he criticizes some state programs, as well as plans of congressional Republicans, to provide students tuition vouchers for private schools. (*The Washington Post*, 02/29/1996)

### ***March***

Riley testifies before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, regarding possible solutions to the budget impasse. (*The Washington Post*, 03/05/1996)

Clinton and Riley attend the National Governors Association Education Summit in Palisades, New York. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 03/27/1996)

## ***Riley: 1996***

### ***April***

After a long impasse, Congress and the president agree on a budget for fiscal year 1997. Riley calls the budget an “important victory” because it restores the funding of Chapter 1, as well as protects Goals 2000, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, and Head Start from spending cuts. While the budget agreement does not cap the Department’s direct student loan program, it does substantially cut the Perkins loan program. (*The Washington Post*, 04/26/1996)

### ***June***

The House passes a bill reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This bill proposes to give schools more flexibility in disciplining disobedient disabled students, and allocates state funding based on each state’s school-age population. The Clinton Administration issues a statement supporting the legislation, but notes that it has “significant concerns” about the disciplinary provisions. However, the bill does not come before the Senate for a full vote. (*1996 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1997, pp. 7-16, 7-17)

### ***September***

Clinton and Riley travel to Raleigh, North Carolina to observe the damage left by Hurricane Fran. In his remarks, the president states, “A lot of our Administration people have been down here. Secretary Riley—I asked Secretary Riley this morning, I said, ‘Dick, why are you coming with us today?’ And he said, ‘Well, I’m a Carolinian...Besides, there were schools damaged; I belong down there.’” (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 09/14/1996)

Clinton signs an omnibus appropriations bill that dissolves the federal government’s ties to the Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae) and the College Construction Loan Insurance Association (Connie Lee), which was partly owned by the Education Department. (*1996 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, pp. 7-20, 7-21)

Clinton campaigns for reelection. His main campaign education proposals include a literacy program, which would be comprised of 30,000 reading specialists and one million volunteer tutors helping all students read by third grade, and the HOPE Scholarship program, which would provide a \$1,500 per-year tuition tax credit to help all high school graduates attend their first two years of college. Clinton has also proposed a \$2 billion program to link every classroom to the Internet, and a \$5 billion program to help repair and rebuild schools. (*USA Today*, 9/25/1996; *The New York Times*, 10/16/1996)

### ***October***

In the presidential debates with Senator Bob Dole (R-KS), Clinton reportedly contradicts his Administration’s previous position opposing school vouchers, stating, “If you’re going to have a voucher plan, that ought to be done at the local level or the state level.” Regarding Clinton’s

## ***Riley: 1996-1997***

remarks, Riley states, “There is nothing new in his position. The president supports more choices” for public schools, but he still opposes vouchers for private schools. (*USA Today*, 10/09/1996)

Riley accompanies Clinton on some of his reelection campaign stops. They travel to Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 10/29/1996)

### ***November***

Clinton defeats Senator Bob Dole in the presidential election. *The Washington Post* reports that Riley may leave his position as Secretary of Education. (*The Washington Post*, 11/07/1996)

The president meets with Riley, concerning the second term transition. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 11/14/1996)

### ***December***

Clinton announces that Riley will remain in his post as Secretary of Education. (*The Washington Post*, 12/21/1996)

Riley issues a statement rejecting the proposition that black English, known as Ebonics, is a separate language. The statement also says that Ebonics programs cannot receive federal funding as form of bilingual education. Riley states, “Elevating black English to the status of a language is not the way to raise standards of achievement in our schools and for our students....The Administration’s policy is that Ebonics is a nonstandard form of English and not a foreign language.” (*The New York Times*, 12/25/1996)

## **1997**

### ***February***

In his State of the Union Address, Clinton proclaims that he will pursue a “national crusade” to improve education, and he devotes the largest part of his speech to education issues. In particular, he proposes a voluntary national program to administer annual tests to fourth-graders in math and eighth-graders in reading. (*1997 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1998, p. 9-50; *The Washington Post*, 02/05/1997)

Clinton and Riley address the American Council on Education. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 02/24/1997)

Riley delivers his annual State of American Education speech. He announces plans to launch an initiative to recruit highly educated teachers, stating, “We need to recruit two million teachers to replace a generation of teachers who are about to retire and to keep up with rising enrollments.” (*USA Today*, 02/19/1997)

## ***Riley: 1997***

- March* Riley promotes the Administration's proposed literacy program, called the America Reads Challenge, on Capitol Hill, though the Administration has not sent Congress legislation for the initiative. (*The Washington Post*, 03/13/1997)
- April* Riley participates in the New York City public school system's Principal-for-a-Day program. (*The New York Times*, 04/11/1997)
- The Department of Education retracts its warning, made one month prior, to Texas universities, that they would lose federal funding if they ended affirmative action programs. This retraction comes after a federal appeals court strikes down affirmative action programs. The acting Solicitor General of the United States, Walter Dellinger, issues a retort to the Education Department, saying that the court's ruling is the law in Texas. (*The New York Times*, 04/15/1997)
- May* The Federal Communications Commission approves the E-rate program, which gives educators \$2 billion in discounts per year to help defray the costs of connecting schools to the Internet. (*The Washington Post*, 05/11/1997)
- Riley travels with Clinton to a Town Hall Meeting on education in Clarksburg, West Virginia. At the meeting, Riley discusses the Read-Write-Now summer program and the E-rate initiative. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, p. 646)
- June* Clinton signs the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The final bill gives states more flexibility in punishing disabled students. The bill also provides for the allocation of funds based on the number of disabled students in a school district, until appropriations reach \$4.9 billion. After this point, funds are to be granted based on the number of school-age children and local poverty rates. (1997 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 7-3)
- July* Riley travels with Clinton to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and to a meeting of the National Association of Black Journalists in Chicago, Illinois. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 07/17/1997)
- August* Clinton signs budget-reconciliation legislation. The legislation includes provisions for the HOPE tax credit for \$1,500 for the first two years of postsecondary education per student, and the Lifetime Learning Credit for \$1,000 per student in their last two years of college or in graduate school. The legislation also provides for penalty-free withdrawals from IRAs to

## ***Riley: 1997-1998***

pay for higher education, as well as for the creation of education savings accounts to pay for higher education. However, the bill also trims federal student loan programs to save an estimated \$1.8 billion over five years. (*1997 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, pp. 7-5, 7-10)

### *September*

Riley is part of the official delegation accompanying the president to Brazil, Argentina, and Venezuela. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 10/15/1997)

In a news conference, Riley criticizes school voucher programs that help students attend private schools, stating that the programs would take away much-needed funding from public schools. He also warns that Clinton would most likely veto any pro-voucher measures Congress passes. (*The Washington Post*, 09/24/1997)

### *October*

The House passes a bill that would allow parents, grandparents, and scholarship sponsors to contribute up to \$2,500 annually to a special education savings account. Democrats argue that the bill would only benefit the rich. The day before the House vote, Riley says that he would advise Clinton to veto the bill. Senate Democrats, however, block the measure. (*1997 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, pp. 7-6, 7-7)

### *November*

After nearly a year of debate, the White House and congressional Republicans reach an agreement on national tests for fourth-graders in math and eighth-graders in reading. The agreement would allow the government to move forward in developing the tests, but would delay their implementation until the National Academy of Sciences conducts a study to see whether the new tests are necessary and whether already existing tests can be adapted for the same purpose. Congressional opposition was led by Representative Bill Goodling (R-PA). This compromise plan is to be included in the 1998 Labor, Health, and Human Services appropriations bill. (*USA Today*, 11/06/1997)

Riley participates in panel discussions at the White House Conference on Hate Crimes. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 11/10/1997)

Clinton signs the fiscal year 1998 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The bill contains a provision allowing students with government loans to consolidate through private lenders. The measure came as a response to the difficulty the Education Department was having in consolidating student loans into a single, direct, federal loan. The Department had a backlog of 80,000 individuals wanting to consolidate, which they blamed on computer problems. The bill also includes \$80 million in funding for charter schools. (*1997 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, pp. 7-8, 7-9)

## ***Riley: 1997-1998***

*December* Clinton directs Riley to create an annual report card on school violence. (*The Washington Post*, 12/07/1997)

### **1998**

*January* Allegations that Clinton had an affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky begin to circulate. After a cabinet meeting, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Commerce Secretary William Daley, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala, and Riley appear outside of the White House to publicly acknowledge that they accept the president's denial of the affair. (*The Washington Post*, 01/24/1998)

Clinton delivers his annual State of the Union address, where he outlines the Administration's education agenda for the coming year. He proposes the hiring of 100,000 new teachers, which would reduce class sizes in grades one through three to an average of eighteen students per class. He also proposes a school construction tax cut to build or renovate 5,000 schools. Clinton also calls for the ending of social promotion. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 01/27/1998)

Riley travels with the president and vice president to Illinois and Wisconsin to promote the proposals Clinton outlined in the State of the Union address. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 01/28/1998)

*February* In a letter to Congress, Riley and Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin warn that Clinton will veto a bill being considered, which would create tax-preferred savings accounts for elementary and secondary education expenses, known as "A-plus accounts." Riley and Rubin state that the accounts would primarily benefit the more affluent, while taking funds away from public schools. (*1998 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1999, p. 9-14)

*March* Riley testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee regarding appropriations for the Education Department for fiscal year 1999. (*The Washington Post*, 03/05/1998)

*The Wall Street Journal* reports that Riley is being considered to replace Jean Kennedy Smith as U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. (*The Wall Street Journal*, 03/20/1998)

Riley testifies before the House Appropriations Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee regarding appropriations for fiscal year 1999. (*The Washington Post*, 03/25/1998)

## ***Riley: 1998***

### *April*

Riley travels with the president and other cabinet officials to Chile for a state visit and to participate in the Summit of the Americas. (*The Washington Post*, 04/15/1998)

The Education Department releases a statement opposing California's Proposition 227, which would ban bilingual education. In the statement, Riley calls the Proposition a "one-size-fits-all approach" that would "lead to fewer children learning English and many...falling further behind in their studies." (*USA Today*, 04/28/1998)

Riley denounces a congressional bill that would create a voucher program for Washington, D.C. schoolchildren. The bill would provide 2,000 low-income students up to \$3,200 per year to help them attend private or public schools of their choice. He states, "Vouchers are the worst kind of public policy—they are diversionary, divisive, and they are unnecessary....They bleed taxpayer dollars from public schools that both need and would truly benefit from this kind of attention and investment." (*The Washington Post*, 04/29/1998)

### *May*

Clinton vetoes a bill that would have created a voucher program for D.C. public school students. (*1998 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 9-24)

### *June*

In an address to school officials involved in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program, Riley states, "Unsupervised gun use and children do not mix....If Charlton Heston and the NRA want to come into the 'mainstream of American political debate,' then they need to stop defining themselves as 'victims of media manipulation' and help keep our children from becoming the victims of gun violence in our schools, in our homes and in our streets. I challenge the NRA to direct its attention to getting guns out of the hands of unsupervised children." (*The Washington Post*, 06/10/1998)

### *July*

Clinton vetoes a bill that would have created tax-preferred savings accounts for expenses related to elementary and secondary schooling, including tuition for private schools. (*1998 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 9-14)

### *August*

In an address to the nation, Clinton concedes that he did have an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Regarding the president's remarks, Riley states, "The President made a strong statement last night. He took complete responsibility for what he called a 'personal failure' on his part. I am pleased that he came forward and took full responsibility for his actions." (*The New York Times*, 09/19/1998)



## ***Riley: 1998***

### *September*

Riley is part of the official delegation accompanying the president on a diplomatic trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 09/03/1998)

### *October*

Clinton signs the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The Act reduces interest rates on federal student loans, increases the maximum amount authorized by Pell Grants, and forgives up to \$5,000 in loans to students who teach in “underserved” areas. It also creates a grant program for teacher training and recruitment, as well the GEAR UP program to help low-income middle-school students prepare for college. (1998 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 9-3)

At the White House Conference on School Safety, Clinton unveils a series of initiatives to combat school violence, including a \$65 million program to help localities hire 2,000 new police officers to guard high-risk schools. (*The Washington Post*, 10/16/1998)

Clinton signs the fiscal year 1999 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The White House secured funding for many of its proposed initiatives, including \$1.2 billion to help in hiring 100,000 new teachers, as part of the Class Size Reduction Initiative, and \$260 million for the America Reads literacy program. The final version of the bill, however, did not include funds for school construction that the Administration sought. (1998 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 2-74)

The Administration receives large funding increases for its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, for before- and after-school programs. The Administration received \$846 million in funding through 2001. (“The Clinton Presidency: Eight Years of Peace, Progress, and Prosperity,” *U.S. National Archives and Records Administration*)

Clinton signs a five-year reauthorization of the 1965 Head Start pre-school program for low-income children. The final act allocates a majority of its funds toward quality improvements, doubles the funding for Early Head Start, and extends for five years the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as the Community Services Block Grant. The final bill also allows faith-based organizations to receive grants. (1998 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 9-19)

## **1999**

### *January*

Clinton delivers his annual State of the Union address. He outlines a proposal to financially reward schools that adhere to federal education guidelines, including ending the practice of moving pupils to the next grade despite poor performance, increasing the quality of teachers through

## ***Riley: 1999***

ongoing training, and adopting rigorous discipline policies. At a press briefing, Riley states, “We’re saying that states and school districts must be accountable in helping all students reach high standards....It’s really a way to help states and school districts see that that’s done.” (*The New York Times*, 01/19/1999)

### ***February***

Riley testifies before the House Education and Workforce Committee regarding the Administration’s education proposals and priorities for fiscal year 2000. (*The Washington Post*, 02/11/1999)

Riley delivers his annual State of American Education address. He advocates a set of uniform national policies on how teachers are licensed, evaluated, and rewarded, in order to improve teacher quality. (*The Washington Post*, 02/17/1999)

### ***March***

Riley testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education regarding funding for the Education Department for fiscal year 2000. (*The Washington Post*, 03/03/1999)

Riley testifies before the House Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education regarding appropriations for fiscal year 2000. (*The Washington Post*, 03/09/1999)

### ***April***

In a memorandum to Riley and Attorney General Janet Reno, Clinton directs them to include a section on hate crimes in their annual report card on school safety and to collect and publish data on hate crimes and bias on college campuses. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 04/07/1999)

In a letter to congressional conferees regarding the final provisions of the ‘Ed-Flex’ bill, Riley writes that Clinton would veto the measure if a particular amendment were included. That amendment would permit the states to use the \$1.2 billion, designated for the president’s plan to hire 100,000 new teachers, on existing special education programs instead. However, Senate Republicans eventually eliminated that provision in order to get the bill passed. (*1999 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2000, p. 10-19)

A school shooting occurs at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. In a briefing, Clinton says that he has called upon Riley and other Administration officials to assist the school system and the community. (*The New York Times*, 04/21/1999)

## ***Riley: 1999***

Clinton signs the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, known as 'Ed-Flex', into law. Ed-Flex gives states greater independence in how they choose to allocate federal education money. The bill gives the Secretary of Education power to implement the program, which allows states to waive federal rules relating to education programs such as Title I. In order to be eligible, states must hold districts accountable for meeting educational improvement goals, as outlined in their waiver applications. (1999 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 10-20).

### ***May***

Riley delivers a speech marking the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. In his remarks, Riley describes quality education as a civil right. He also previews Administration proposals for renewing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (*The Washington Post*, 05/18/1999)

Clinton unveils the Administration's proposal for renewing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Some of the major proposals include a requirement that schools reach expected achievement levels or be forced to shut down, as well as a ban on the promotion of failing students to the next grade level. (*The Washington Post*, 05/20/1999)

### ***July***

Riley and Clinton travel to Des Moines, Iowa, where they promote their teacher recruitment, class size reduction, and school construction and renovation initiatives. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 07/16/1999)

### ***August***

In a letter to university leaders, Riley warns that many educational institutions are behind on repairs to correct the Y2K computer glitch. (*The Washington Post*, 08/06/1999)

Riley and Reno host a national education forum on child safety, broadcast via satellite. (*The Washington Post*, 09/13/1999)

### ***September***

Riley testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education regarding youth violence initiatives contained within the fiscal year 2000 budget proposal. (*The Washington Post*, 09/14/1999)

### ***October***

In a White House press briefing, Riley criticizes the Republicans' proposed cuts in the education budget. By reducing funding for after-school programs and literacy initiatives, he says that the 1.4 percent cuts would deny critical resources to schools, as well as break last year's bipartisan commitment to hire 100,000 additional teachers and reduce class sizes. (*The Washington Post*, 10/27/1999)

## ***Riley: 1999-2000***

### *November*

Clinton vetoes the fiscal year 2000 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. In an explanation of the veto, Clinton states, “We value education, yet this bill fails to invest the right way in education. It reneges on last year’s bipartisan agreement to fund 100,000 new, highly trained teachers....And...it opens the door for federal funds to be used for private school vouchers.” (1999 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 2-102)

Clinton signs the appropriations bill for fiscal year 2000 for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The bill increases education spending over the levels of fiscal year 1999. The bill also approves much of the funding the president requested to hire more teachers and reduce class size. Republican plans to repeal Clinton’s Goals 2000 program, which provides grants to schools to improve student achievement, were also approved. (1999 *Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 2-105)

Clinton signs legislation granting tuition breaks to students within the District of Columbia who attend public universities in Virginia and Maryland and offering grants for tuition to attend the District’s private colleges. Riley states, “The anxiety that so many parents feel about paying for college has become part of America’s worry list....We want to let parents and students here in the District and all over the nation know that college is within reach.” (*The Washington Post*, 11/21/1999)

### *December*

The National Education Goals Panel reports that the nation has met none of the eight education goals, adopted by the governors at the 1989 education summit in Charlottesville, Virginia. Riley states, “We’re not where we want to be—by a long shot—and we have to pick up the pace....The goals we have set are like a North Star. They give us a sense of direction.” (*The Washington Post*, 12/03/1999)

## **2000**

### *January*

In a speech to the Education Department’s National Conference on Teacher Quality, Riley states that there is a lack of talented and dedicated teachers. “The challenge is to make sure that there is a talented, dedicated teacher in every classroom. We are falling short of that goal.” (*The Washington Post*, 01/09/2000)

### *February*

Clinton sends his budget proposal to Congress. Under the proposal, the Education Department would receive a 4.7 percent increase in discretionary spending. (*The Washington Post*, 02/08/2000)

Riley delivers his annual State of American Education address. He advocates teachers working nearly the entire year, which would increase

## ***Riley: 2000***

their pay, along with the prestige of the teaching profession. (*The Washington Post*, 02/23/2000)

Riley testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education regarding the education budget for fiscal year 2001. (*The Washington Post*, 02/29/2000)

### ***March***

Riley testifies before the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, regarding the education budget for fiscal year 2001. (*The Washington Post*, 03/09/2000)

Riley delivers a major address on the topic of the education of Hispanics. In the speech, he endorses a "dual language" approach to bilingual education, whereby English would be taught to immigrants and a foreign language would be taught to their English-speaking classmates. (*The Washington Post*, 03/16/2000)

### ***April***

In a speech at the French Embassy on the topic of international education, Riley urges Congress to authorize paying \$68 million in annual membership dues so that the U.S. can rejoin UNESCO, the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The Reagan Administration withdrew from UNESCO in 1984. (*The Washington Post*, 04/20/2000)

In an address to school counselors in Chicago, Riley rejects the use of behavioral profiling for the purpose of identifying potentially violent students. Rather, Riley promotes the creation of a "caring environment" to promote school safety, as detailed in a guide the Education Department recently released to school administrators. (*The Washington Post*, 04/29/2000)

### ***June***

Riley participates in the White House Strategy Session on Improving Hispanic Student Achievement. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 06/15/2000)

Riley announces the Administration's award of \$1.3 billion to continue hiring new teachers as part of the Class Size Reduction Program. Clinton criticizes the efforts of Republicans in Congress, who are trying to provide funding in the form of block grants to the states, because the grants lack accountability. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 06/30/2000)

### ***August***

*The Washington Post* reports that in recent months, Riley has traveled, at the government's expense, to the districts of ten House Democrats who are

## ***Riley: 2000***

up for reelection. Riley appeared with each of the members at what were described as education events. (*The Washington Post*, 08/27/2000)

### ***September***

The House Education and Workforce Committee gives Riley two weeks to account for the costs and purposes of his travels to make appearances with the House members in their districts. (*The Washington Post*, 09/01/2000)

Riley testifies before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee regarding the improvement of the nation's international communication, translation, and general foreign language capabilities. (*The Washington Post*, 09/19/2000)

### ***October***

Congress fails to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Instead, Congress separately funds ESEA programs for one year through omnibus spending packages. Clinton signs three of the programs into law, including the Ed-Flex bill, initially signed in 1999, the Impact Aid Reauthorization Act, giving additional funds to schools that have trouble raising property taxes, and the Literacy Involves Families Together Act, reauthorizing the Even Start program. (*2000 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 9-3)

Before the House Education and Workforce Committee, Riley defends his trips to the congressional districts of ten Democrats up for reelection. He states, "Most of these requests come from members of Congress who support the Administration's position....More Democrats, obviously, ask me to come speak....When I travel on the taxpayers' dollar, every cent is for an educational purpose." (*The Washington Post*, 10/26/2000)

The student loan industry, including the Bank of America and Sallie Mae, bring a lawsuit against the Department of Education. They allege that direct federal loans violate federal law. The lenders charge, "By placing its economic competitors at a competitive disadvantage, the Department has used its regulatory power not to carry out congressional intent, but to advance its own competitive interests." (*The Washington Post*, 11/27/2000)

### ***December***

Clinton signs the fiscal year 2001 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The bill includes a seventeen percent increase in education spending over the previous year, the largest in the Department's history. It also includes \$1.2

billion for emergency school repairs, with 25 percent allocated for special education or technology upgrades. Clinton also receives the funding to continue his efforts for teacher recruitment and reduced class sizes, with 25 percent allocated for improving teacher quality. (*2000 Congressional Quarterly Almanac*, p. 2-113)

## **2001**

Riley travels with the president to East Lansing, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois, where President Clinton delivers remarks on his Administration's record on a range of issues. (*Public Papers of the President: William J. Clinton*, 01/09/2001)

Riley rejoins the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in South Carolina.

## **RICHARD W. RILEY SUGGESTED TOPICS**

*Prepared by Jill Abraham*

*Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/05/2004*

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### ***Joining the Clinton Administration***

- How did you come to know Governor Clinton? What were your associations with Governor Clinton during your tenure as Governor of South Carolina? Describe your initial impressions of him.
- Did you have any involvement in the 1992 campaign? How did you come to be appointed to the transition team as Director of Sub-Cabinet Appointments? Describe the work you did in that position.
- How did you come to be appointed Secretary of Education? How did you balance your duties in the transition with your role as a cabinet appointee? Did you have any prospective discussions with the President about your role as Secretary of Education? Discuss the other senior appointments made in the Department of Education, as well as your own role in making them.

### ***Secretary of Education***

- Describe your responsibilities as Secretary of Education. What duties occupied most of your time? With whom in the Education Department did you work most closely?
- Discuss the challenges, if any, involved in leading education policy formulation and implementation at the national level, as Secretary of Education, as opposed to at the state level, as Governor. Were any of President Clinton's federal education policy ideas generated or tried out during his tenure as Governor of Arkansas?
- Discuss your working relationship with the White House staff. With whom in the West Wing did you work most closely?
- Did you meet with the President on a regular basis? How involved was the President in formulating education policy? How frequently did you propose policy ideas to the President?
- What were your responsibilities when you traveled with the President on domestic and foreign trips?
- Characterize your working relationships with other members of the cabinet. Describe cabinet meetings during the Clinton Administration. How effective was the cabinet as a policy-making institution? How important was the cabinet in helping the President achieve his policy goals?
- With whom in the Congress did you work most closely? In particular, describe your working relationships with the chairs of the House and Senate committees that dealt with education issues. Discuss your relationship to Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS), and Jim Jeffords (R-VT), as well as Representatives William D. Ford (D-MI) and Bill Goodling (R-PA). Describe any challenges you experienced in promoting education legislation on Capitol Hill.
- Describe your working relationships with organized interest groups. Which interest groups were your main allies and adversaries?



- Discuss your press relations as Secretary of Education. Were there any special challenges in dealing with the press on matters of education policy?

### ***Major Education Issues and Policies***

- Discuss the process through which major education policies were formulated, proposed, and implemented.
- Characterize the debate over the abolition of the Department of Education.
- To what extent should the Clinton Administration be credited with nationalizing education policy in the United States?
- Discuss your role in formulating, promoting, and implementing the major primary and secondary education policies, such as Goals 2000, the Improving America's Schools Act, the E-Rate program, the Class Size Reduction Program, the Ed-Flex program, and America Reads.
- Discuss your role in proposing, advancing, and implementing the major higher education policies, such as the Student Loan Reform Act, the HOPE Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credit, and GEAR UP.

### ***The Clinton Presidency in Retrospect***

- What do you consider your greatest accomplishments as Secretary of Education? What were the most challenging aspects of your job?
- What were Clinton's greatest assets as President? Assess his strengths and weaknesses as a domestic policymaker, a legislative leader, and a leader of public opinion. Which of his attributes served him best in the presidency?
- What features of the Clinton presidency, and your roles in it, were overlooked or misunderstood by the press?
- What do you think will be the Clinton Administration's lasting legacy on education policy?
- In your opinion, what will be the Clinton Administration's lasting impact on the Democratic Party?
- How should the Clinton presidency be viewed in history?

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