

## WAYS &amp; MEANS

## From the Campaign Trail:

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley used a campaign stop in Tampa last week to take a few jabs at Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's plan to end affirmative action in public-college admissions.

Mr. Bradley told a crowd that the governor—brother of Republican contender and Texas Gov. George W. Bush—had committed “a clear wrong” and “demonstrated a lack of vision and leadership” in seeking to replace the state-university system’s affirmative-action policies with a requirement that it admit the top fifth of every graduating class from Florida’s high schools. Last month, Mr. Bradley called two Florida legislators to convey his support for their sit-in at the state Capitol over the plan.

Last week’s event was held at a local Italian-American club, but Mr. Bradley’s message seemed aimed at black voters throughout the South, whom he may need to woo away from Vice President Al Gore if he is to start winning primaries and stay in the race.

Mr. Bradley subsequently headed off to South Carolina and criticized Governor Bush of Texas for speaking recently at Bob Jones University, which bars interracial dating. Meanwhile, Mr. Bradley’s wife, Ernestine, toured historically black colleges.

## Lobbyist Watch:

So where were key Washington education leaders—including Education Secretary Richard W. Riley and William F. Goodling, chairman of the House of Representatives education committee—a week before budget season began? At a Capitol Hill luncheon held by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

That group, like other religious-college organizations, exists primarily to help members join forces on issues of common concern, such as curriculum, recruitment, and church ties. But the Jesuits have clout as well.

The Washington-based Jesuit group has a team of lobbyists. And the association counts President Clinton, Commerce Secretary William M. Daley, and 40 members of Congress among the alumni of its 28 member colleges.

Cyndy Littlefield, the association’s federal-relations director, said the luncheon was an opportunity to lobby key leaders on a traditionally high priority, student financial aid.

“It’s part of the nature of our institutions to support needy students,” she said, noting that member colleges provide about 40 percent of students’ financial aid, twice the national average. “It’s time to make up for the decline over the last 20 years of real student-aid dollars at the federal level.”

As a member of the Student Aid Coalition and the Committee for Education Funding, the association will press lawmakers to back President Clinton’s tax-cut proposals and bolster federal financial-aid programs, she said.

## GOVERNMENT &amp; POLITICS

## Clinton Seeks a \$200 Increase in Size of Maximum Pell Grant

President’s budget plan also includes more money for work-study, loans, and black colleges

BY STEPHEN BURD

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON last week proposed a fiscal-2001 budget that would significantly increase federal financial-aid programs for the neediest students and broaden tax breaks to help middle-income families pay for college.

Under the president’s proposal, the maximum Pell Grant would grow by \$200, to \$3,500. Pell Grants are the government’s primary source of college grants for 3.9 million low-income students.

Over all, Mr. Clinton’s budget would increase spending on federal student grant and loan programs to \$54.2-billion, a 5.5-percent increase over last year’s spending. Grants, loans, and work-study slots would be available to an estimated 8.6 million students—about 217,000 more than in fiscal 2000.

The administration also proposed a 10-year, \$30-billion College Opportunity Tax Cut, which would expand available tax benefits for those who pay college expenses. It would give students and their families the option of taking a tax deduction—or claiming a 28-percent tax credit—on up to \$5,000 a year in tuition and fees in 2001 and 2002, and up to \$10,000 in 2003 and the following years. When fully phased in, the maximum award would be \$2,800 a year.

“Some argue that the federal budget surplus should be used for broad-based tax cuts. I don’t see or hear any groundswell of opinion for those types of cuts when I visit with parents,” Education Secretary Richard W. Riley said at a press conference last week. “What I hear is very different—pay down the national debt and build for the future by investing in the education of our children.”

## ‘A TERRIFIC BUDGET’

For the most part, college leaders and lobbyists gushed over the president’s proposals.

“This is a terrific budget for student aid,” said Terry W. Hartle, senior vice president for government and public affairs at the American Council on Education.

But other lobbyists and student-aid experts complained that Mr. Clinton’s tax proposal would do little to increase access to higher education for low-income students, and would mostly help middle- or upper-middle-income families afford to send their children to high-cost private colleges (*The Chronicle*, February 4).

The president’s fiscal-2001 budget request also would:

- Increase by \$77-million, to \$1.01-billion, the budget of the College Work-Study Program, to sustain the administration’s commitment to serving one million students.

Education Secretary  
Richard W. Riley:

*The public wants the government to “pay down the national debt and build for the future by investing in the education of our children.”*



DENNIS DRENNER FOR THE CHRONICLE

- Raise by \$60-million, to \$691-million, the budget of the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, which augments Pell Grants for needy students.

- Keep at the fiscal-2000 level of \$40-million the budget of the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program, which matches each dollar that states commit to need-based aid.

- Increase by \$80-million, to \$725-million, the government’s spending on the TRIO programs for disadvantaged students. Almost half of that increase—\$35-million—would pay for a new program within TRIO, the College Completion Challenge Grants, aimed at helping disadvantaged students remain in college. The new program would provide scholarship assistance and intensive summer programs for students in their first or second years of college.

- Raise by \$125-million, to \$325-million, the budget of GEAR UP, which enlists colleges in an effort to provide middle-school

students from low-income families with the support they need to eventually go to college.

- Extend a tax break for employer-provided educational assistance, and expand it to include graduate courses.

- Repeal a 60-month limit on how long borrowers can deduct from their taxable income the interest they pay on student loans.

- Increase by \$5-million, to \$20-million, the Advanced Placement Incentives Program, which awards grants to states to enable them to cover part or all of the cost of Advanced Placement test fees for low-income students who are enrolled in these classes. The program aims to provide an incentive for school districts serving low-income students to offer A.P. courses.

Mr. Clinton also included funds to assist those attending colleges that mostly enroll minority students. The budget would increase spending by \$29.2-million, to \$209-million, for an Education Department program that provides grants to historically black colleges to help them develop their facilities, curricula, and endowments. A similar program benefiting Hispanic-serving institutions would also grow by about \$20.3-million, to \$62.5-million.

## DUAL DEGREES

One of the new endeavors proposed in the budget is the \$40-million Dual Degree Programs for Minority-Serving Institutions, which aims to help students at Hispanic-serving institutions, historically black colleges, and tribal colleges to earn dual degrees in five years. Participants would spend three years as undergraduates earning a bachelor’s degree at their home institution, and two years at a major research university earning a bachelor’s or master’s degree in a field in which the student’s racial or ethnic group is underrepresented.

“I believe this program will encourage

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more minority students to pursue graduate degrees," said William A. Blakey, Washington representative for the College Fund / UNCF and a major proponent of the proposal. "I think there's also a very real possibility that the partnership between the institutions will help minority institutions to develop and institutionalize more graduate and professional programs on their campuses."

College officials were especially pleased last week that the Clinton Administration wants to increase funds used by the Education Department to reimburse colleges for certain loans that are forgiven.

Under the Perkins Loan Program, which provides low-interest loans to needy students, the government cancels the loan repayments of borrowers who agree to teach in low-income communities, or to pursue careers in law enforcement or nursing. When canceling those loans, the department is expected to return to colleges the

Perkins money that comes from the institutions' revolving funds. Each college that participates in the Perkins program has such a fund, made up of payments, with interest, received from past borrowers. The colleges use that fund to make additional loans to students.

College groups have complained that the department has failed over the last several years to return all of the money owed to colleges. If not fully reimbursed, they said, colleges are forced to deplete their revolving funds, and in turn must cut back on the new Perkins loans they could provide.

## REPLENISHING LOAN FUNDS

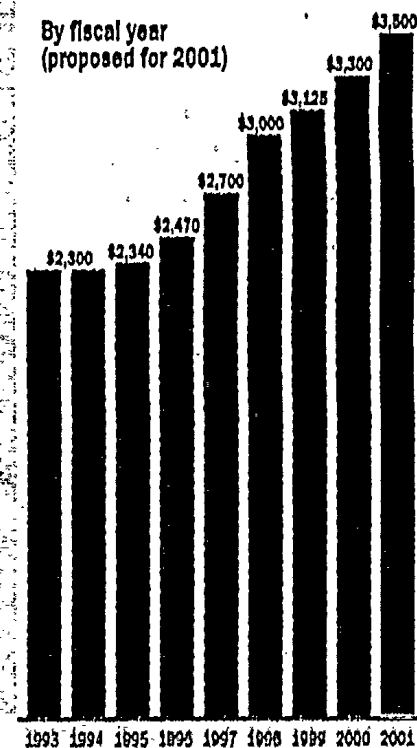
The administration's budget would increase by \$30-million, to \$160-million, the amount the federal government contributes to the Perkins Loan Program. Of that amount, \$60-million would go to reimburse colleges—double the amount that the department has had for this purpose in the past.

"We are happy that the department has finally recognized the need to fully reimburse colleges," said Stephanie Giesecke, director for budget and appropriations at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "This will help more students benefit from the low-interest loans, and pursue careers in fields that are important to our society."

Congressional Republicans say they support the administration's calls for generous increases for student aid. But they say they are wary of creating any new higher-education programs and of expanding existing tax benefits to college students and their parents.

"I am disappointed that the president still sees the need to create new federal programs and new bureaucracies for proposals when existing programs could be used," said Rep. William F. Goodling, the Pennsylvania Republican who chairs a House of Representatives committee that oversees the Education Department. ■

## Maximum Pell Grant

By fiscal year  
(proposed for 2001)

SOURCE: CHRONICLE REPORTING

CHRONICLE CHART BY MARGARET ROSS