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Ford
3/7/95

✓ as amended

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 88()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Miller, Taylor, Rieger

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing a pilot program for charter schools; and providing for an
2 effective date."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS. (a) A charter school may
5 be established as provided under this Act upon the approval of the local school board and the
6 state Board of Education of an application for a charter school. The state Board of Education
7 may not approve more than 30 charter schools to operate in the state at any one time and shall
8 approve charter schools in a geographically balanced manner as follows: not more than 10
9 schools in Anchorage; not more than five schools in Fairbanks; not more than three schools
10 in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; not more than three schools in the Kenai Peninsula
11 Borough; not more than two schools in the City and Borough of Juneau; not more than seven
12 schools located in other areas of the state, and these seven schools shall be allocated as nearly
13 as possible in a geographically balanced manner throughout the rest of the state.

14 (b) A local school board shall prescribe an application procedure for the establishment

#1 "school employees" adopted

1 of a charter school in that school district. The application procedure must include provisions
2 for an academic policy committee consisting of teachers and parents of students attending the
3 school and a proposed form for a contract between a charter school and the local school board,
4 setting out the contract elements required under sec. 2(c) of this Act.

5 (c) A local school board shall forward to the state Board of Education applications for
6 a charter school that have been approved or denied by the local board.

7 * Sec. 2. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF A CHARTER SCHOOL. (a) A
8 charter school operates as a school in the local school district except that the charter school
9 (1) is exempt from the local school district's textbook, program, curriculum, and scheduling
10 requirements; (2) is exempt from AS 14.14.130(c); the principal of the charter school shall
11 select, appoint, or otherwise control employees of the charter school; and (3) operates under
12 the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract between the local school
13 board and the charter school under (c) of this section. A local school board may exempt a
14 charter school from other local school district requirements if the exemption is set out in the
15 contract.

16 (b) A charter school shall

- 17 (1) keep financial records of the charter school;
- 18 (2) oversee the operation of the charter school to ensure that the terms of the
19 contract required by (c) of this section are being met; and
- 20 (3) meet regularly with parents and with teachers of the charter school to
21 review, evaluate, and improve operations of the charter school;
- 22 (4) meet with the academic policy committee at least once each year to
23 monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals.

24 (c) A charter school shall operate under a contract between the charter school and the
25 local school board. A contract must contain the following provisions:

- 26 (1) description of the educational program;
- 27 (2) specific levels of achievement for the education program;
- 28 (3) admission policies and procedures;
- 29 (4) administrative policies;
- 30 (5) statement of the charter school's funding allocation from the local school
31 board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget:

1 school district or the department in complying with the requirements of AS 14.17.190.

2 * Sec. 4. ADMISSION. (a) The program of a charter school may be designed to serve

3 (1) students within an age group or grade level, or

4 ~~((2) students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or curriculum.~~

5 ~~((b) A charter school shall enroll all eligible students who submit a timely application,~~

6 unless the number of those applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade
7 level, or building. In the event of an excess of those applications, the charter school and the
8 local school board shall attempt to accommodate all of those applicants by considering
9 providing additional classroom space and assigning additional teachers from the district to the
10 charter school. If it is not possible to accommodate all eligible students who submit a timely
11 application, students shall be accepted by random drawing. A school board may not require
12 a student to attend a charter school.

13 (c) In addition to other requirements of law, a charter school shall be nonsectarian.

14 * Sec. 5. TEACHER TRANSFERS, EVALUATIONS, AND NEGOTIATED
15 AGREEMENTS. (a) A teacher may not be assigned to teach in a charter school unless the
16 teacher consents to the assignment.

17 (b) All provisions of an existing negotiated agreement or collective bargaining
18 agreement applicable to a teacher or employee of a district apply to that teacher or employee
19 if employed at a charter school in that district, unless the district and the bargaining unit
20 representing the teacher or employee agree to an exemption.

21 (c) A teacher in a charter school shall be evaluated in an equivalent manner as all
22 other teachers in the district, except that if there is no administrator assigned to the charter
23 school, the local school board, with the agreement of the charter school, shall designate a
24 school district administrator in that district to evaluate a teacher in a charter school.

25 * Sec. 6. CONTRACTS; DURATION. A contract for a charter school may be for a term
26 of no more than five years and may not extend beyond July 1, 2005.

27 * Sec. 7. REGULATIONS. The state Board of Education may adopt regulations under
28 AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) necessary to implement this Act.

29 * Sec. 8. DEFINITIONS. In this Act,

30 (1) "academic policy committee" means the group designated to supervise the
31 academic operation of a charter school and to ensure the fulfillment of the mission of a charter

1 school;

2 (2) "charter school" means a school established under this Act that operates
3 within a public school district;

4 (3) "local school board" means a borough or city school board or a regional
5 school board;

6 (4) "parent" means a biological, adoptive, or foster parent, or an adult who acts
7 as guardian of a child and makes decisions related to the child's safety, education, and
8 welfare;

9 (5) "parent advisory group" means a group that is recognized by the school as
10 representative of those parents having children attending that school, that has regular meetings,
11 and in which membership is open to all parents within that school's attendance area;

12 (6) "teacher" means a person who serves a school district in a teaching,
13 counseling, or administrative capacity and is required to be certificated in order to hold the
14 position.

15 * Sec. 9. This Act is repealed July 1, 2005.

16 * Sec. 10. TRANSITION. Notwithstanding sec. 12 of this Act, the state Board of
17 Education may proceed to adopt regulations necessary to implement this Act. The regulations
18 take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the respective
19 effective date of the relevant section or sections of this Act.

20 * Sec. 11. Section 10 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

21 * Sec. 12. Sections 1 - 8 of this Act take effect July 1, 1995.

COMPARISION BETWEEN SB-88 AND CSSB-88 (CHARTER SCHOOL)

AT THE REQUEST OF NEA:

On page 2, line 2, the word [faculty] was deleted from SB-88; and replaced in CSSB-88 with the word teachers.

On page 2, line 20 the words with parents are added in CSSB-88.

On page 5 lines 2 and 3 in the CSSB-88 version, after the word Act; add the words that operates within a public school district.

AT THE REQUEST OF COMMITTEE: NEW CS VERSION::

On page 2, lines 10 and 11 add the principle of the charter school shall select, appoint, or otherwise control employees of the charter school.

AT THE REQUEST OF SPONSOR: NEW CS VERSION:

On page 2, in Section 2(b), line 22, a new subsection (4) is added to read: meet with the academic policy committee at least once each year to monitor progress in achieving the committee's policies and goals.

On page 3, line 16, a new section (d) is added to read: (d) A charter school may be operated in an existing school district facility or in a facility within the school district is not currently being used as a public school, if the chief school administrator determines the facility meets requirements for health and safety applicable to other public schools in the district.

Lic. Inf. Staff

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MEMORANDUM

February 16, 1995

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 88

TO: Senator Bert Sharp

FROM: Michael F. Ford *M.F.F.*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Allows the formation of a charter school by application to a local school board. Requires approval by the local school board and the State Board of Education. Limits the State Board to approval of not more than 30 charter schools. Requires approval of charter schools in a geographically balanced manner.

Section 2. Provides for organization and operation of a charter school. Requires that a charter school operate under contract with the local school board. Imposes certain required contract provisions.

Section 3. Requires that funding for a charter school be provided by the local school board, through an annual program budget. Requires that the budget be not less than the amount generated by enrolled students less administrative costs of the district.

Section 4. Provides that admission to a charter school can be limited to certain age groups or to students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or curriculum. Requires that a charter school be nonsectarian.

Section 5. Provides for assignment and evaluation of teachers in charter schools.

Section 6. Provides that a contract for a charter school may not be for a term of more than five years and may not extend beyond July 1, 2005.

Senator Bert Sharp
February 16, 1995
Page 2

Section 7. Allows the Department of Education to adopt regulations to implement the charter school provisions.

Section 8. Defines certain terms used for purposes of charter schools.

Section 9. Repeals sections relating to charter schools.

Section 10. Allows the State Board of Education to proceed to adopt regulations.

Sections 11-12. Effective dates.

MFF:klb
95-080:klb

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 88

Revision Date: _____

Department Affected: Education

Title: An Act establishing a pilot program for charter schools

BRU: Education Program Support

Sponsor: Senator Sharp

Component: Basic Education and Instructional Improvement

Requester: Senator Sharp

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 171

Expenditures/Revenues:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY95) impact: \$ 0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Senate Bill 88 establishes a pilot program for charter schools. The State Board of Education will need to develop, notice, and promulgate regulations to implement SB 88.

Prepared by: Sheila Peterson, Special Assistant

Phone: 465-2803

Division: Commissioner's Office

Date: February 18, 1995

Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]*

Jerry Covey

Agency: Education

Date: February 18, 1995

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB-88

BY: SENATOR BERT SHARP

THE ISSUE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH DURING THE TWO YEARS OF THE 18TH LEGISLATURE. UNFORTUNATELY, CHARTER SCHOOLS WAS JUST ONE PART OF SB-61, WHICH IN ALL ASPECTS, WAS AN "OMNIBUS EDUCATION BILL". THE BILL TRIED TO ADDRESS SUCH DIVERSE ISSUES AS LENGTHENING THE SCHOOL YEAR, MODIFYING TEACHERS TENURE, SETTING UP TEACHERS EVALUATION COMMITTEES, CREATING IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FUND, MANDATED ADVISORY BOARDS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS, LISTED THREE PAGES OF GOALS FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCE, AND CHARTER SCHOOLS, EACH OF WHICH WERE CONTROVERSIAL AND EACH IN SOME WAY, TAINTING THE OTHER BY ASSOCIATION.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

I'VE TRIED TO CRAFT SB-88 TO BE A SINGLE ISSUE BILL ON CHARTER SCHOOLS. I WANTED THE BILL TO SET AS FEW LIMITATIONS AS POSSIBLE ON SETTING UP AND OPERATING CHARTER SCHOOLS, TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS AND PARENTS THE SPACE TO BE CREATIVE.

SEE SECTIONAL

I'M SURE THAT THE COMBINED TALENTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS LEGISLATURE CAN CRAFT A BILL THAT ENCOURAGES SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO DESIGN CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AT THEIR HIGHEST CAPABILITIES.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE CHARTER SCHOOLS MAY LEAD THE WAY TO A MORE EFFECTIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR THE NEXT CENTURY.

WE ALL HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO TRY.



**NEW LAW RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
(1993 WISCONSIN ACT 16)**

Information Memorandum 94-22

*Wisconsin Legislative Council Staff
One East Main Street, Suite 401
Madison, Wisconsin
Telephone: (608) 266-1304*

*SUBJECT Education and Affili.
DATE 1994-03-03-0516 COPY 2/2
STATE INFORMATION CENTR.
ORNO 18266*

June 23, 1994

FEB 06 1995

Information Memorandum 94-22*

NEW LAW RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS
(1993 WISCONSIN ACT 16)

INTRODUCTION

This Information Memorandum describes the provisions of 1993 Wisconsin Act 16, relating to the creation of charter schools. The Act was signed into law on August 10, 1993 by Governor Tommy G. Thompson and published August 11, 1993. The Act took effect August 12, 1993.

Copies of Act 16 may be obtained from the Documents Room, Lower Level, One East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702; telephone: (608) 266-2400.

This Memorandum is divided into the following parts:

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* This Information Memorandum was prepared by Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Staff.

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I. BACKGROUND OF 1993 WISCONSIN ACT 16, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

The legislation which authorized charter schools in Wisconsin was part of 1993 Wisconsin Act 16, the Biennial Budget Act. The initial charter school provisions were included in 1993 Senate Bill 44, which was introduced by the Joint Committee on Finance, by request of Governor Tommy G. Thompson.

Senate Bill 44 was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance on February 4, 1993. The Joint Finance Committee modified the charter school provisions and included those provisions in Senate Substitute Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 44 on June 29, 1993. The charter school provisions were included in the legislation passed by the Senate on June 30, 1993.

The charter school provisions, as modified by the Senate, were included in the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 44, adopted by the Assembly and concurred in by the Senate. The only modification to the charter school provisions as passed by the Senate was an additional requirement that the State Superintendent act by July 1, 1994 on all requests to establish a charter school. The Governor signed Senate Bill 44 into law as 1993 Wisconsin Act 16 on August 10, 1993. The charter school provisions are included in the following SECTIONS of 1993 Wisconsin Act 16: 808g, 808r, 2221, 2256, 2283m, 2289b, 2292, 2296, 2297, 2329g, 2329r, 2333 and 2335. Act 16 was published on August 11, 1993.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROVISIONS OF 1993 WISCONSIN ACT 16, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

A. AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL

Under the provisions of 1993 Wisconsin Act 16, relating to charter schools, a school board of any public school district in the state, including the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) may request the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for approval to establish one or two charter schools in the school district.

Under the law, the State Superintendent must approve the first 10 requests received and ensure that charter schools are established in no more than 10 school districts.

B. RELATIONSHIP TO SCHOOL DISTRICT; EMPLOYEES

Under the law, a charter school is considered to be an "instrumentality" of the school district in which it is located. All personnel of a charter school are employed by the school district. Thus, charter school employees have the same eligibility for enrollment in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) as other employees of the district. Moreover, charter school employees are eligible for any benefits authorized under ch. 40, Stats., such as life insurance, income continuation, group health insurance or deferred compensation, if the school district offers those benefits to its other employees.

C. EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL CODE

A charter school is exempt from the provisions of the statutes governing public schools [chs. 115 to 121, Stats.], except for the following requirements:

1. All "instructional staff" of a charter school must hold a license or permit to teach issued by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The State Superintendent of Public Instruction must promulgate rules defining "instructional staff" for the purposes of this licensing requirement.
2. School boards must administer the third-grade reading test to pupils enrolled in charter schools.
3. School boards must administer examinations under the statewide pupil assessment program, annually, to pupils enrolled in charter schools. Under this program, examinations are administered to 8th and 10th grade pupils to measure pupil attainment of knowledge.
4. Pupils enrolled in charter schools must be included in the school district's annual school performance report. This report includes indicators of academic achievement, including performance of pupils on the examinations described under items 2 and 3, above, other indicators of school district performance and staff and financial data.

D. CREATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

A school board may, under the new law, request the State Superintendent's approval for the creation of one or two charter schools, either upon its own initiative or upon receipt of a written petition from teacher's employed by the school district.

1. Creation Upon Teacher Petition

Under the petition alternative:

a. A petition requesting the creation of a charter school, signed by at least 10% of the teachers employed by the school district or at least 50% of the teachers employed by one school in the district, must be filed with the school district clerk.

b. The petition must include all of the following:

- (1) The name of the person seeking to establish the charter school.
- (2) The name of the person who will be charge of the charter school and the manner in which the administrative services will be provided.
- (3) A description of the educational program of the charter school.
- (4) The methods the school will use to enable pupils to attain the educational goals under s. 118.01, Stats.
- (5) The method by which pupil progress in attaining the educational goals under s. 118.01, Stats., will be measured.
- (6) The governance structure of the charter school, including the method to be followed by the school to ensure parental involvement.
- (7) Subject to the certification requirements described above, the qualifications that must be met by individuals employed by the charter school.
- (8) The procedures the charter school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils.
- (9) The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the school district population.
- (10) The requirements for admission to the charter school.
- (11) The manner in which annual audits of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be performed.

(12) The procedures for disciplining pupils.

(13) The public school alternatives for pupils who reside in the school district who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to the charter school.

(14) A description of the charter school facilities and the types and limits of the liability insurance that the school will carry.

(15) The effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district.

If a school board has received approval for a charter school from the State Superintendent, then, within 30 days after receiving a petition from teachers, the school board must hold a public hearing on the petition to consider the level of employee and parental support for the establishment of the charter school described in the petition. After the hearing, the school board may grant the petition. However, a school board may not grant a petition that would result in a conversion of all the public schools in the school district to charter schools unless both of the following apply:

- a. At least 50% of the teachers employed by the school district sign the petition.
- b. The school board provides alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school.

If a school board grants the petition, the school board must contract with the person named in the petition to operate the school as a charter school. The contract must include all the provisions specified in the petition and may include other provisions agreed to by the parties.

2. Creation by School Board Initiative

Under the law, if a school board has received approval for a charter school from the State Superintendent, it may, on its own initiative, contract with an individual or group to operate a school as a charter school. The contract must include all the provisions described above under a charter school created by a teacher petition and may include other provisions agreed to by the parties.

The school board may not enter into such a contract if it would result in the conversion of all of the public schools in the school district to charter schools, unless the school board provides alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to the charter school.

E. EXPENDITURE LIMITATION

Under the law, the contract for a charter school must specify the amount to be paid by the school board to the charter school during each school year of the contract. In any school year, the school board may not spend, on average, more per pupil enrolled in any charter school than it spends, on average, per pupil enrolled in the public schools, excluding charter schools, as determined by the State Superintendent.

F. OTHER CONTRACT PROVISIONS AND LIMITATIONS

A contract for a charter school may be for any term not exceeding five school years and may be renewed for one or more terms not exceeding five school years. A school board may not enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school located outside the school district or a contract that would result in the conversion of a private school to a charter school.

A school board must give preference in awarding charter school contracts to those charter schools that serve children-at-risk.

G. RESTRICTIONS ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

The following restrictions apply to the operations of charter schools:

1. No pupil may be required to attend a charter school without his or her approval, if the pupil is an adult, or the approval of his or her parents or legal guardian, if the pupil is a minor.
2. If a charter school replaces a public school, in whole or in part, the charter school must give preference in admission to any pupil who resides within the attendance area or former attendance area of the public school.
3. The charter school must be nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices and all other operations.
4. A charter school may not discriminate in admission or deny participation in any program or activity on the basis of a person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.
5. A charter school may not charge tuition.

H. CHARTER REVOCATION

A charter may be revoked by the school board if the school board finds that any of the following occurred:

1. The charter school violated its contract with the school board.
2. The pupils enrolled in the charter school failed to make sufficient progress toward obtaining the educational goals under s. 118.01, Stats.
3. The charter school failed to comply with generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management.
4. The charter school violated the provisions of the statutes related to charter schools.

I. REVOCATION OF SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORITY

Under the law, a school board which receives approval from the State Superintendent to establish a charter school prior to the end of a calendar year must operate or demonstrate significant progress toward operating the charter school by the beginning of the next school year. If not, the State Superintendent must withdraw his or her approval for the establishment of that charter school.

J. STATE AID

Pupils enrolled in a charter school are included in the school district's membership for general state aid purposes.

K. AUDIT BUREAU EVALUATION

Under the law, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee may direct the Legislative Audit Bureau to perform a financial and program evaluation audit of the charter school's program and submit its report by January 1, 2000.

RW:rjl:wu:jt:las

planning
st the project. The
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to pay off his own lost-

tionary and paranoia
However, the left's sentimental-
ity about itself and nastiness about
this nation suffered another wound
last week, when the Yale Universi-
ty Press published "The Secret
World of American Communism,"
a selection of documents from the
archives of the former Soviet
Union pertaining to the Commu-
nist Party of the United States. An-
notated by Harvey Klehr of Emory
University, John Earl Haynes of
the Library of Congress and
Fridrikh Igorevich Firsov, a Rus-
sian archivist, the documents dem-
olish the romantic notion that
the CPUSA was just a manifesta-
tion of political idealism, perhaps
naively and imprudently extreme,
but still an institution in the Amer-
ican tradition of populist protest:
"The documents in this book
demonstrate with unmistakable
clarity that the common percep-
tion that 'American communism

strument of Soviet espionage. ...
(The CPUSA was) a conspiracy fi-
nanced by a hostile foreign power
that recruited members for clan-
destine work, developed an elabo-
rate underground apparatus, and
used that apparatus to collaborate
with espionage services of that
power."
Highly pertinent to the Hiss
case is the fact that some of the
documents confirm the story of
clandestine activities in Washing-
ton in the 1930s as told by Whitt-
aker Chambers, the former Soviet
agent who became Hiss' accuser.
The documents, say the authors of
the book, demonstrate something
that Hiss' defenders scoffed at, the
fact that "a thriving Communist
underground was in place in the
1930s." For example, documents 32
and 33, found in CPUSA files that
had been sent to Moscow for safe-
keeping, demonstrate the theft of

...
pants in clandestine Communist
activities.
The evidence against Hiss was
sufficient to convict him of perju-
ry, and since then additional evi-
dence (see Allen Weinstein's defi-
nitive history of the case) has
forced his embattled defenders to
adopt what is now known as an
"Oliver Stone defense." The prem-
ise of Stone's movie "JFK" was
that a vast conspiracy produced
the Kennedy assassination, and
proof of the vastness is that the
conspirators left not a shred of evi-
dence of their conspiracy. Hiss' de-
fenders say many individuals and
government agencies conspired to
frame him, even producing a flaw-
lessly forged copy of his typewrit-
er. (O.J. Simpson's lawyers are
mounting a modified "Stone" de-
fense, arguing that the night of the
murders the Los Angeles police in-

but is wrong about everything.
That is, paranoiacs can have real
problems and enemies, but not for
the reasons suggested by their
weird view of how the world
works. Postwar anti-communism
committed excesses and occasion-
ally partook of paranoia. However,
that did not vindicate the anti-anti-
communism of many intellectuals.
The people who portrayed the
CPUSA darkly got it essentially
right, although they rarely por-
trayed it darkly enough.
And the deepest paranoia was
- and is - among those who con-
tinue to consider America para-
noid because they cannot face the
fact that the left was on the losing
side of history, and deserved to be.

George F. Will is a columnist
for the Washington Post.

LETTERS

Parental control is the real issue for education

Reference has been made to David Reaume's My Turn column and follow-up letter presenting information that refutes the claim that class size impacts student performance.
The idea that class size should be limited to no more than 25 students is: obviously subjective. Why not 15 or 28 or 32? There are simply too many variables involved, e.g. family circumstances, quali-

ties and skill of the teacher, school atmosphere and expectations, etc.
My concern is that class size may be used as an excuse for poor educational performance to direct attention away from the real problem with our public schools.
We constantly hear that our schools need more money, but as far as I am concerned lack of money is not the problem. If it was, we would be in excellent shape.
Certainly one of the major problems in our society that seriously impacts student performance has

nothing to do with our schools - namely the disintegration of the family unit and lack of parental involvement.
But there is enough blame to go around. Our schools have become social institutions rather than educational institutions. Programs and policies reflect the least common denominator of student behavior and performance.
Our schools need more autonomy with less bureaucratic oversight and its resulting high administrative costs. Certainly a good

dose of competition in the form of school choice would work wonders. Parents simply need more power over the education of their children.
Until parents can wrest control of the schools from the National Education Association and its supporters, there is little hope of correcting the problem. Certainly spending more money as requested by the defenders of the existing system will not do it.
Sidney D. Heidersdorf

BY GARRY TRULEAU

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
ACTUALLY, I DO, SIR. I CARE ABOUT BOTH OF YOU.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT I ESTABLISHED HIS BLOODLINES. SOMETIMES I CAN'T HELP MYSELF. I JUST LIKE BRINGING PEOP-

THANK YOU, JENNY JONES. WHERE'S THAT GUNNY-SACK?
UM... WHY?

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