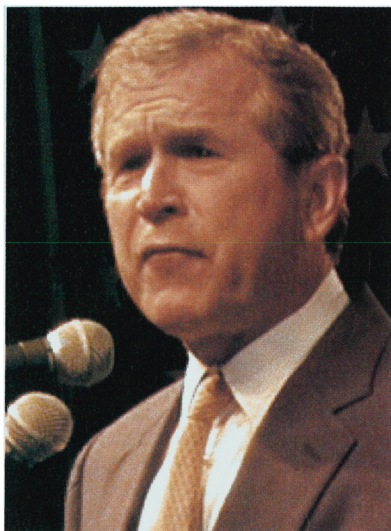




SPECIAL REPORT



Presidential Candidates Speak Out on Science Policy



When Governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore stand before adoring crowds at campaign rallies, they routinely speak about protecting social security, saving the American education system, expanding Medicare, and revamping the military. Domestic social issues, taxes, and military readiness serve as the table of contents for the typical political stump speech.

"Science," much less "physics," is a rare word in presidential politics, so PHYSICS TODAY, continuing a tradition begun in 1976, asked the presidential candidates 10 questions of interest to scientists. The answers are sometimes revealing, sometimes not, but they do show some fundamental differences between Bush and Gore on several key issues.

Bush wants to move quickly on missile defense, and calls for a system that would protect not only the US, but "our friends and allies and deployed forces overseas." He calls the ABM Treaty of 1972 "an artifact of cold war confrontation." Gore wants to see how the technology develops, although he believes some sort of system is needed. He hopes to work with the Russians to modify the ABM

Treaty to permit a small-scale missile defense system.

On global warming, Gore is for signing the Kyoto Protocol and aggressively reducing greenhouse pollutants. Bush thinks there has been only "slight warming," and, while noting that changes in the atmosphere are "serious," calls for "much more extensive scientific analysis." He opposes the Kyoto Protocol.

Security problems at the weapons laboratories brought about responses clearly based on politics. Bush states that, under his leadership, the labs will be "secure again, our vital information will be sealed again, [and] our nuclear secrets will be secret again." Gore says security problems are already being fixed, with "21 major security initiatives" under way at the behest of the Department of Energy.

The candidates also address such issues as nuclear proliferation, radioactive waste, exploration of space, science education, funding physical versus biological science, and the need for a comprehensive energy policy. The editors at PHYSICS TODAY developed the questions, and each candidate was limited to a total of 2500 words for all 10 questions.

JIM DAWSON

Questions

1 Missile defense

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the total cost of the proposed national missile defense (NMD) system at \$60 billion, yet many scientists doubt the system's effectiveness. How will you gauge technical feasibility in the testing process? How much are you willing to spend for NMD? Is a national missile defense system a good idea despite its international diplomatic implications, including the risk of violating the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty?

2 Weapons of mass destruction

India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons in May 1998. Reports are circulating of nuclear, biological, or

chemical weapons programs in Iraq, North Korea, and elsewhere. There is concern that deployment of a US national missile defense system will violate the 1972 ABM Treaty and could spark a new arms race with China or Russia. Last year, the US failed to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. What steps will your administration take to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?

3 Biological and physical sciences

In recent years, federal funding for the biological sciences has increased rapidly. Science, however, is an interdependent enterprise, and medical progress often depends on independent advances in the physical sci-

ences. What is the proper funding balance between the biological and the physical sciences? How would you maintain that balance?

4 Global warming

In June, the US Global Change Research Program predicted that global warming will cause temperatures to rise several degrees during the next century and significantly alter world ecosystems. Given the ongoing scientific warnings, and a consensus that there is a discernible human contribution to the climate change, do you see global warming as a threat? If so, what measures would you take to mitigate the warming? Do you support the Kyoto Protocol that requires the US to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2010? If not, why not?

5 Energy policy

For more than two decades there have been discussions about the need for a comprehensive energy policy. Do you believe our dependence on fossil fuels is a problem? Given the immediate environmental problems resulting from burning fossil fuels, do you see nuclear power (fission) playing a greater role in the next decade? How much attention and money should be focused on developing solar, wind, and fusion as significant energy sources?

6 International science projects

Big science projects, such as the Large Hadron Collider being built in Europe and the proposed International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, Laser Interferometer Space Antenna, and Next Linear Collider, are so expensive that multinational collaborations are increasingly needed to support them. How should the US balance its leadership role in science with participation in projects located in other countries?

7 National labs

The US national research labs—both weapons-related and multipurpose—have helped make the US the world leader in science. Yet, the weapons labs are now in apparent disarray with reports of low morale, high attrition rates, and security concerns, and some of the multipurpose labs have been accused of lacking focus. Does the national lab system need restructuring? How would you end the turmoil at the weapons labs? What should the missions be for the multipurpose labs?

8 Science education and skilled workers

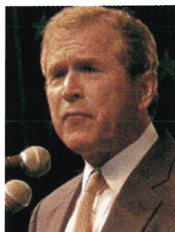
How does the US make sure it has enough technically trained people to fulfill its economic and security needs? Should the federal government set national science standards or have any other role in ensuring a high-quality K-12 science education? What is your position regarding quotas on visas granted to non-US scientists, technicians, and students?

9 Radioactive waste

For many years, controversy has surrounded the disposal of radioactive waste. Do you support the Department of Energy's request for a 26% budget increase for developing the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada? Is an interim storage facility a good solution for the spent fuel mounting at nuclear power plants? What should be done with nuclear and other toxic waste from the weapons program?

10 Space policy

What are your priorities for civilian space exploration? Is NASA's current funding level adequate to ensure success? Will your administration support a manned mission to Mars or the establishment of a manned base on the moon?



BUSH

1 Missile defense

One pillar of my plan for America's defense is to protect our homeland and allies against attack, accidental launches, and blackmail. Today, the danger of totalitarianism is waning, but the threat from rogue states and terrorists is rising. Over two dozen countries have ballistic missiles. North Korea's are capable of hitting Hawaii and Alaska. Nations like Iran and Iraq are developing capabilities of their own.

America must build effective missile defenses, based on the best available options, at the earliest possible date. Our missile defense must be designed to protect all 50 states—and our friends and allies and deployed forces overseas—from missile attacks by rogue nations, or accidental launches. To make this possible, we will offer Russia the necessary amendments to the Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty—an artifact of cold war confrontation. Both sides know that we live in a different world from 1972, when the ABM treaty was signed. If Russia refuses the changes we propose, we will give prompt notice, under the provisions of the treaty, that we can no longer be a party to it. I will have a solemn obligation to protect the American people and our allies, not to protect arms control

continued on next page

GORE

1 Missile defense

I support the development of technology for the deployment of a limited national missile defense that would protect the US from missile attack. The threat is real and requires an effective response. This response will be based on technological effectiveness, cost, the nature of the threat, and the impact on relations with our allies and on arms control.

I also support the continued negotiations with the Russian Federation to modify the ABM Treaty to permit limited NMD deployments. However, if persuaded that NMD is needed, I will not permit Russia to exercise a veto over its deployment.

2 Weapons of mass destruction

As president, I would continue detailed discussions with both Russia and China to assuage their concerns that a limited NMD system would threaten their nuclear deterrent forces. I would work strenuously to build bipartisan support on Capitol Hill to secure Senate consent to ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

I also would advance a number of additional measures to address nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction

continued on page 65





BUSH (continued)

“I oppose the Kyoto protocol—it is ineffective, inadequate, and unfair to America . . .”

agreements signed almost 30 years ago. Given today's realities, we can no longer drag our feet on building and deploying a missile defense system; nor can we allow cold war arms control agreements to restrict America's ability to defend itself and its allies.

2 Weapons of mass destruction

There is broad agreement that our nation needs a new approach to nuclear security that matches a new era. The emerging security threats to the US, its friends and allies, and even to Russia, now come from rogue states, terrorist groups, and other adversaries seeking weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. Threats also come from insecure nuclear stockpiles and the proliferation of dangerous technologies. Russia itself is no longer our enemy. The cold war logic that led to the creation of massive stockpiles on both sides is now outdated. Our mutual security need no longer depend on a nuclear balance of terror.

While deterrence remains the first line of defense against nuclear attack, the standoff of the cold war was born of a different time. The Clinton-Gore administration has had over seven years to bring the US force posture into the post-cold war world. It is time to leave the cold war behind.

America must rethink the requirements for nuclear deterrence. The premises of cold war nuclear targeting should no longer dictate the size of our arsenal. As president, I will ask the secretary of defense to conduct an assessment of our nuclear force posture and determine how best to meet our security needs. I will pursue the lowest possible number consistent with our national security. It should be possible to reduce the number of American nuclear weapons significantly further than what has already been agreed to under START II, without compromising our security in any way.

In addition, America should remove as many weapons as possible from high-alert, hair-trigger status—another unnecessary vestige of cold war confrontation. Today, for two nations at peace, keeping so many weapons on high alert may create unacceptable risks of accidental or unauthorized launch. So, as president, I will ask for an assessment of what we can safely do to lower the alert status of our forces.

In the area of strategic nuclear weapons, we should invite the Russian government to accept the new vision I have outlined, and act on it. But the US should be prepared to lead by example, because it is in our best interest and the best interest of the world. The US has an opportunity to lead to a safer world—both to defend against nuclear threats and reduce nuclear tensions. It is possible to build a missile defense and defuse confrontation with Russia. I will also ask Congress to increase substantially our assistance to Russia to dismantle as many of their weapons as possible, as quickly as possible.

In the hard work of halting proliferation, however, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is not the answer.

I've said that our nation should continue its moratorium on testing. Yet far more important is to constrict the supply of nuclear materials and the means to deliver them—by making this a priority with Russia and China. Our nation must cut off the demand for nuclear weapons—by addressing the security concerns of those who renounce them. And our nation must diminish the evil attraction of these weapons for rogue states—by rendering them useless with missile defense. The CTBT does nothing to gain these goals. It does not stop proliferation, especially to renegade regimes. It is not verifiable. It is not enforceable. And it would stop us from ensuring the safety and reliability of our nation's deterrent, should the need arise.

3 Biological and physical sciences

I believe that advances in biological sciences are dependent on advances in the physical sciences. That is why I support increasing the federal investment in basic research, making the research and experimentation tax credit permanent, and increasing defense-related R&D by \$20 billion—in addition to doubling the budget of the National Institutes of Health. Part of this doubling will be to speed the development of computational techniques and software tools that are at the heart of efforts to find cures for diabetes, brain disorders, cancers, disease prevention strategies and the development of an AIDS vaccine.

Another important element of my plan to re-energize the federal research effort is to invest in information-technology basic research.

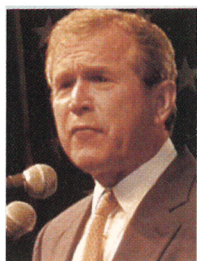
4 Global warming

Efforts to improve our environment must be based on the best science. Scientific data show average temperatures have increased slightly during this century, but both the causes and the impact of this slight warming are uncertain. Changes in the Earth's atmosphere are serious and require much more extensive scientific analysis.

I oppose the Kyoto Protocol—it is ineffective, inadequate, and unfair to America because it exempts 80% of the world from compliance, including major population centers such as China and India. Accepting Kyoto and raising fuel prices would hurt American families without cutting global carbon dioxide emissions. As president, I will work for a comprehensive, fair, and effective agreement—one that harnesses the power of the marketplace and encourages international efforts to develop the technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I believe reductions in global pollution through market-based mechanisms, such as pollution credit trading, have worked in the past and can work in the future.

Policies like the Kyoto Protocol also result in an increase in the costs of gasoline, home heating oil, natural gas, and electricity, all without cutting carbon dioxide emissions. Drastic fuel price increases would be necessary for the US to comply with the Kyoto Protocol agreed to by the Clinton-Gore administration.

We must negotiate a new agreement in which the devel-



BUSH *(continued)*

oping nations are full partners, new technology is central, and the power of the marketplace is harnessed.

5 Energy policy

Our country desperately needs a comprehensive energy policy, one that reflects the realities of our energy consumption and our policy goals for the future. I do believe

that our dependence on foreign oil is cause for concern. We must encourage domestic exploration for oil and natural gas and reduce our dependence on foreign supplies.

We should also develop alternative sources of energy, and the government should focus on basic science to support growing these resources. Government should not be picking corporate and technology winners and losers, however. That is a throwback to the Carter era of command-control energy policy.

Nuclear power must continue to play an important role if we are to meet the energy requirements of the New Economy and the air quality that Americans rightly demand. Nuclear power is a vital part of our nation's energy supply mix, currently supplying over 20% of our country's electric needs. Given our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, it is imperative that we cultivate and protect clean, domestic energy sources.

My administration will also provide incentives—not roadblocks—for states to effectively deregulate their electric and natural gas markets. I believe that natural gas will play an important role in helping America reduce its reliance on foreign oil. Because natural gas is hemispheric in nature, it's not subject to global supply disruptions. It is also environmentally friendly, releasing fewer greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants per energy unit than other fossil fuels.

As president, I will set high environmental standards and clear environmental expectations. I will tear down regulatory barriers to innovation and provide market-based incentives to develop new technologies so Americans can meet—and exceed—those standards.

One of the best ways to encourage clean, efficient, and affordable energy technologies is the R&D tax credit. I will make the R&D tax credit permanent, which will increase private sector innovation, boost productivity, and create more jobs.

6 International science projects

Cooperative projects with friends and allies can serve our national interest as long as strong systems of accountability are in place and programs are effectively monitored.

7 National labs

I believe the cutting-edge work done in our national labs will be even more important in the future. I also believe that America's security should not be a matter of lost and found. In my administration, our national labs will be secure again, our vital information will be sealed again, our nuclear secrets will be secret again.

We have a tremendous opportunity—given few nations in history—to extend the current peace into the far realm of the future. This opportunity is created by a revolution in the technology of war. Power is increasingly defined, not by mass or size, but by mobility and swiftness. Influence is measured in information, safety is gained in stealth, and

force is projected on the long arc of precision-guided weapons. This revolution perfectly matches the strengths of our country—the skill of our people and the superiority of our technology. The best way to keep the peace is to redefine war on our terms.

Yet today our military is still organized more for cold war threats than for the challenges of a new century—for industrial-age operations, rather than for information-age battles. As president, I will begin an immediate, comprehensive review of our military—the structure of its forces, the state of its strategy, the priorities of its procurement—conducted by a leadership team under the secretary of defense. I will give the secretary a broad mandate—to challenge the status quo and envision a new architecture of American defense.

The transformation of our military will require a new and greater emphasis on research and development. If elected president, I will commit an additional \$20 billion to defense R&D between the time I take office and 2006.

8 Science education and skilled workers

Educating our children is the most important thing we will ever do, and we must get it right. As president, I will enact bold education reforms that insist on high standards to match the high hopes of America's parents. To create an opportunity society, we must reject the soft bigotry of low expectations, prize educational excellence, and make it our top domestic priority.

I am committed to creating a “culture of achievement” for all students in all subjects, including in math and science. The Texas record of boosting the math achievement of all students, no matter their race or income or accent, is a model for the nation.

My reform plan gives schools increased flexibility with federal education funds in exchange for high standards and accountability for improved student achievement. I also recognize the need to address specific problems in math and science education—too many math and science teachers are teaching “out-of-field,” too few students are taking advanced math and science coursework, and too few schools are offering challenging curricula and textbooks in math and science. To address these concerns, I have proposed the following reforms, including a package of new initiatives totaling \$2.3 billion over five years:

▷ Establish a \$1 billion Math and Science Partnership Fund to join states with institutions of higher education to strengthen K–12 math and science education, by training advanced placement instructors for high-need schools and developing online advanced placement curriculum.

▷ Require Math and Science Partnership states to meet clear accountability measures in boosting student achievement in math and science.

▷ Provide \$1 billion for enhanced Pell grants to students who take college-level math and science courses in high school, allowing them an additional \$1000 to pay for college tuition.

▷ Provide \$345 million to increase from \$5000 to \$17 500 the amount of student loans that may be forgiven for science, math, technology, and engineering majors and minors who commit to teach in a high-need school for at least five years.

The current cap on H-1B visas hurts high-tech industries that are currently facing a shortage of computer engineers, software programmers, and technicians. I favor allowing high-tech companies to recruit more temporary,

high-skilled workers through an increase in the current limit on H-1B visas.

9 Radioactive waste

Sound science—not politics—should prevail when determining long-term storage of nuclear waste. I will respect the current administration's timetable on Yucca Mountain, which calls for a decision before the end of 2001. I oppose shipping nuclear waste anywhere until all the necessary scientific studies at its destination site have been completed.

10 Space policy

Space has proven to be a wonderful source of motivation to get students to focus on mastering their skills in math and the various sciences. I would encourage our schools to take full advantage of the magnificent imagery and breakthroughs in space knowledge that have come from NASA's orbiting observatories. NASA and other agencies have amassed countless amounts of information about the Earth, and sharing that information in classrooms will make current and future generations even bet-

ter stewards of God's good Earth.

I support the International Space Station and believe that we must ensure that it becomes operational in the near term. At the same time, I believe that the ISS provides important lessons that should govern whether or not we enter into similar international space projects in the future. Such lessons include establishing at the outset very clear and concise criteria for the project's success, as well as compelling goals that the American taxpayer can use to judge whether the project advanced our nation's overall interests in space.

I support continuing to explore Mars. I believe it is important that we continue to lay the groundwork for long-term exploration of our neighboring planets by increasing our knowledge and experience of planetary exploration via robots, including landers that are ultimately capable of extensive coverage. In addition, it is important that America stay focused on driving the cost of space transportation down so that the total costs of sending humans to explore new planets is affordable and the means to get them there is technologically feasible, reliable, and accountable.



GORE *(continued)*

“Fundamental science . . . is the foundation on which technical progress ultimately rests.”

tion (WMD) including: furthering the application of Nunn-Lugar-Domenici funds to denuclearize the Russian federation; continue implementation of START I and II and begin negotiations on a START III agreement that, in total, could reduce the number of deployed nuclear weapons to less than 20% of their peak levels during the cold war; inspection of Iraqi suspect facilities; strengthening the verification system of the Biological Weapons Convention; building up US anti-terrorist capabilities; and adjust existing treaties to meet the new WMD proliferation threats.

3 Biological and physical sciences

Through scientific discovery and technological innovation, we enlist the forces of the natural world to solve many of the uniquely human problems we face—feeding and providing energy to a growing population, improving human health, taking responsibility for protecting the environment and the global ecosystem, and ensuring our own nation's security.

Fundamental science—discoveries in math, physics, chemistry, and biology—is the foundation on which technical progress ultimately rests. The long-term investment that we make in pioneering discovery and knowledge generation is our “venture capital” for the future. Unexpected discoveries, some of which affect our work, education, recreation, and well being, generally stem from the pioneering work of fundamental research—giving us an entirely new way to understand the inner workings of nature.

Because of our commitment to science, the administration proposed a significant increase for the “Twenty-First Century Research Fund”—including an increase in biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Biomedical research is dependent on breakthroughs in other fields, such as advances in supercomputers needed to develop life-saving drugs more rapidly, physics for MRI and other medical imaging technologies, and nanotechnology that could detect cancerous tumors when they are only a few cells in size. This year, Republican cuts in the physical sciences and engineering will prevent breakthroughs that could lead to longer, healthier lives for all Americans. As president, I will continue our commitment to science as an interdependent enterprise.

4 Global warming

I have carefully studied and addressed this issue for much of my public life, and I have concluded that the broad and growing scientific consensus indicates that global temperatures are rising and that human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels are at least partly to blame.

Studies have shown that the 20th century has been the warmest century in the past 1000 years, the 1990s have been the warmest decade in the period, and 1998 was the single warmest year on record. The world's leading climate scientists predict an eventual increase in global temperatures of 2°F to 6.5°F. The range of likely effects that this kind of warming would cause includes more extreme weather events, expanded geographic ranges for diseases



GORE (continued)

like malaria and dengue fever, sea level rises, and damage to ecosystems that cannot adapt quickly enough.

This issue is important because climate change threatens catastrophic changes in weather and sea level that imperil not just the environment, but also the safety of our communities, the reliability of our agricultural production, and other fundamental pillars of our economic future.

As vice president, I personally participated in successfully negotiating the first international agreement to set binding commitments to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions: the Kyoto Protocol. One of the Protocol's key features is its system of market-based mechanisms that will help the world reduce greenhouse gas emissions both quickly and cost-effectively. We must make sure that the rules for these mechanisms get us the most environmental cleanup possible for each available dollar invested. We also need to ensure greater participation on the part of key developing countries in the fight against global warming.

Once these key features of the Protocol are ready to be put into place, I believe that support for this approach will combine with a growing understanding of the scientific information to forge a consensus for action on this issue. On this basis, as president I will work with Congress to ensure the earliest possible ratification and most sensible implementation of the Protocol.

5 Energy policy

I support a balanced energy policy that reduces environmental impacts while creating jobs and energy independence. I believe that maintaining tax incentives for the production of US coal, oil, and natural gas can help ensure that domestic markets for these products will be supplied from domestic sources. However, such incentives should be regularly reviewed to ensure that they are still necessary and are working properly, and as president I will make sure such reviews take place.

At the same time, I believe that the US should pursue tax policies, such as those in the Climate Change Technology Initiative, that will reduce the need to consume as much energy as it currently does from these sources by promoting more energy-efficient vehicles and other alternative energy products.

Finally, I believe that significant improvement in on-the-road fuel efficiency of the light duty vehicle fleet is critical to addressing climate change, and I will vigorously pursue that goal as president. The American consumer deserves the most efficient vehicle that technology can provide. Significantly improving fuel economy in all sizes of vehicles is possible, in part due to the research done by the administration's Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles. With respect to specific Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards for the year 2010, I believe it is premature to set a specific standard until the rulemaking process required by law has taken place. That way we will have full information on what is technologically feasible, necessary from an environment standpoint, and protective of consumers.

6 International science projects

I believe that science is an international endeavor. Many of the greatest challenges our nation faces are of global concern. Issues such as poverty, disease, pollution,

and sustainable energy production transcend nations. Their solutions require international collaboration.

America has participated in numerous scientific endeavors that illustrate the benefits of international cooperation. With the International Space Station, we lay the foundations for developing space-based commerce. With the completion of the Human Genome Project, we will have unprecedented knowledge about the cause of such genetic diseases and greater hope of preventing them in the future.

As president, I will be committed to furthering international scientific cooperation and the diversity of scientists working together to solve the complex problems of our day.

7 National labs

I support the administration's current efforts to strengthen security of our nation's nuclear labs. The energy department is conducting the most comprehensive security reorganization in its history. It has implemented more than 21 major security initiatives, including: requiring mandatory FBI background checks on foreign nationals from sensitive countries visiting or assigned to department facilities; eliminating the reinvestigation backlog on security background checks for current employees and contractors holding clearances; developing "air-gaps" between classified and unclassified cyber systems; consolidating the energy department security-related independent oversight into one single office; strengthening the cyber security programs; and conducting comprehensive cyber security appraisals and practices at all the weapons labs and headquarters.

It tapped a very distinguished career military officer and intelligence expert, General John A. Gordon, to serve as undersecretary for nuclear security and administrator of the newly-created National Nuclear Administration Agency. General Gordon is conducting a top-to-bottom review of security procedures at the nation's nuclear laboratories. As president, I will remain vigilant in his stewardship of our nation's security.

8 Science education and skilled workers

A fundamental challenge for our public schools is to help every child reach the high standards needed for success in today's economy, society, and democracy. The investments in our children's technology are already paying off. Over a million classrooms have been connected through the E-rate program. Now 95% of public schools have some access to the Internet, compared to 35% in 1994. And we have increased the number of classrooms connected to the Internet 20 times—from 3% to more than 60% of classrooms. Today, the E-rate is helping about 38 million children in more than 80% of our public schools. It is also benefiting half of our libraries.

Beyond the E-rate, federal investments in educational technology have gone from under \$30 million a year to more than \$900 million as proposed in our budget—a 30-fold increase. We have made stunning progress in getting computers to children in the classroom, too. In 1994, 35 students had to share one multimedia computer. Today, less than 10 students have to share a multimedia computer.

There is still much to do. We have to finish the job of connecting our classrooms. We need to make sure that all our teachers have the skills they need to incorporate tech-

nology into learning, and we need to take advantage of the unique opportunities that technology brings to the classroom—like personalized education and better communications with parents.

I would expand teacher training in effectively using the Internet in the classroom, and deploy AmeriCorps national service corps members to teach and promote the Internet in schools, libraries, and technology centers that need them the most. In addition, we must make the best educational software available to every school so that all students and teachers will be able to utilize computers and Internet access to the fullest.

During this time of economic prosperity, with unemployment at its lowest in 30 years, we also must ensure that this expansion is not slowed by a shortage of a highly-skilled workers. Today, the Labor Department projects that American businesses will create more than 1.3 million information technology jobs over the next 10 years. Already, companies in the high-tech sector, which are driving a third of our economic growth, report a need for more skilled technology workers to continue innovation. To continue our progress in the short term, we need to train American workers as well as enable American businesses to periodically tap into the international labor market. That's why I support providing additional resources to educate and train US workers, while increasing the number of H-1B visas to 200 000 for fiscal years 2001 through 2003. Together, these provisions would advance my primary and longer-term goal of protecting and preparing our own US workforce as our economy continues to grow.

9 Radioactive waste

I have steadfastly opposed efforts by three Republican Congresses to bypass environmental requirements and dictate interim storage in Nevada. These interim storage bills, written by and for the nuclear power industry, would be the law today if President Clinton and I had not stood firm in opposition. While I was in Congress, I called for a wholesale review of our nuclear waste management program to ensure its safety and effectiveness.

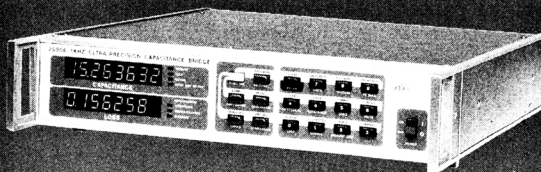
I oppose any weakening of environmental or public health standards. As a nation, we too bear the consequences and costs of toxic waste disposal practices that disregard the need to ensure long-term protection of communities. The risks are even greater with respect to nuclear waste. We ought to learn from our mistakes and insist that nuclear waste disposal meet all environmental and public health standards.

Finally, facility operators must be required to implement appropriate site security measures as a condition for their licenses. Where facility operators fail to provide adequate security, the federal government must be prepared to step in.

10 Space policy

America's space program has always been about pushing the envelope in science, technology, exploration, and discovery as a means of learning more about ourselves and the universe in which we live. As president, I will complete the International Space Station, invest in safety upgrades to the space shuttle, and develop new space transportation technologies to meet the challenges of tomorrow. I also will make reaching further into the solar system through NASA's space science enterprise a priority and continue to emphasize Earth science. ■

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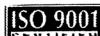
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