

[From the Birmingham Post-Herald, Feb. 7, 1996]

20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

Twenty years ago, the future looked dim for many small, private liberal arts colleges. Declining enrollments and troubled financial conditions forced many such schools out of existence. Others survived by abandoning much of their distinctiveness through merger into other colleges and universities or becoming taxpayer-funded institutions. People were even questioning whether a liberal arts education still had any value.

Among the colleges in trouble was Birmingham-Southern College. Enrollment was down significantly, the college had a budgetary deficit and the college presidency had changed hands several times in a very short period.

Then, on Feb. 1, 1976, Neal Berte became college president. Under his leadership, the Methodist institution enhanced what were still strong academic programs, rebuilt its finances and reversed the erosion of a tradition of community involvement.

If Berte had done nothing more in the past 20 years than restore Birmingham-Southern's standing as one of the best liberal arts colleges in this part of the country, he would deserve high praise. But as anybody who follows public life in this community must know, he has done much more.

There is hardly a facet of civic life that has not been affected—for the better—by Berte. He holds or has held chairmanships in several organizations. But even more important has been his ability to bring other leaders and potential leaders together in ways that improve Birmingham for all of us. He has been a much-needed catalyst for change.

Anybody seeking an example of what being a leader means need look no farther than the Birmingham-Southern hilltop campus and the office of Neal Berte.

REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE RADIATION CONTROL FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1994—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 135

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 540 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360qq) (previously section 360D of the Public Health Service Act), I am submitting the report of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the administration of the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968 during calendar year 1994.

The report recommends the repeal of section 540 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that requires the completion of this annual report. All the information found in this report is available to the Congress on a more immediate basis through the Center for Devices and Radiological Health technical reports, the Radiological Health Bulletin, and other publicly available sources. The Agency resources devoted to the preparation of this report could be put to other, better uses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 1996.

REPORT ON THE TRADE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995 AND THE TRADE POLICY AGENDA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 136

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 1996 Trade Policy Agenda and 1995 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 158. Joint resolution to recognize the Peace Corps on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and the Americans who have served as Peace Corps volunteers.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution authorizing the 1996 Special Olympics Torch Relay to be run through the Capitol Grounds.

H. Con. Res. 147. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the fifteenth annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 158. Joint resolution to recognize the Peace Corps on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and the Americans who have served as Peace Corps volunteers; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Pursuant to the order of February 9, 1996, the following measure was placed on the calendar:

H.R. 849. An act to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to reinstate an exemption for certain bona fide hiring and retirement plans applicable to State and local firefighters and law enforcement officers; and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2189. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2190. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Secretary of State Determination relative to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2191. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on agency compliance with respect to unfunded mandates reform; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2192. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to cost of travel and privately owned vehicles of federal employees; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2193. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of its administrative responsibilities during calendar year 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2194. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2195. A communication from the Vice President and General Counsel of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2196. A communication from the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1995; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2197. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Railroad Retirement Act to conform to the statute of limitations with respect to the creditability of compensation under that Act to the statute of limitations with respect to the payment under the Railroad Retirement Act and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-2198. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the final report on the I-66 HOV-2 Demonstration Project; to the Committee on the Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-523. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

“SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1014

“Whereas, separation of powers is fundamental to the United States Constitution and the power of the federal government is strictly limited; and