

schools, that our dedication doesn't end when the bell rings at the end of every school day. Every single American has a stake in what we're starting today, and I am confident that we'll rise to the challenge.

Forty or fifty years from now, some fifth or sixth grader who's sitting in a classroom somewhere in America today will be standing here in my place. Because of the commitment that I am told exists in the Department of Education, here in this room, in the various communities represented, whether it's the Governors or business or some in labor so interested in all of this,

or the State legislators—because of that commitment, I know in my heart that that person—she or he—will have had every opportunity that this great country has to offer.

So, let's go to work. I know we can do it. And I'm with you all the way. Thank you so very much for your involvement. And may God bless this effort and our great country. Thank you all.

*Note: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander.*

## Nomination of Mike Hayden To Be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior

*April 18, 1991*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Mike Hayden, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife at the Department of the Interior. He would succeed Constance Bastine Hariman.

Governor Hayden served as Governor of the State of Kansas from 1987 to 1990. Prior to this he served as a speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives, 1982–1986. From 1978 to 1982, he served as chairman of the house ways and means

committee, Kansas House of Representatives.

Governor Hayden graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor of science degree in wildlife conservation, 1966, and a master of science degree in biology from Fort Hays State University, 1974. Governor Hayden served in the U.S. Army, 1968–1970. He was born March 16, 1944, in Colby, KS. Governor Hayden is married, has two children, and resides in Topeka, KS.

## Address to the Nation on the National Education Strategy

*April 18, 1991*

Thank you all for joining us here in the White House today. Let me thank the Speaker for being with us, and the majority leader; other distinguished Members, committee heads and ranking members, and very important education committees here with us today. I want to salute the Governors, the educators, the business and the labor leaders, and especially want to single out the National Teachers of the Year. I believe we have 10 of the previous 11 Teachers of the Year with us here today,

and that's most appropriate and most fitting.

But together, all of us, we will underscore the importance of a challenge destined to define the America that we'll know in the next century.

For those of you close to my age, the 21st century has always been a kind of shorthand for the distant future—the place we put our most far-off hopes and dreams. And