

Bush campaign makes first stop in Nebraska

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school funded by donations from Omaha's Hispanic community. Most of the students enter the school without English proficiency but by the first grade receive instruction in English.

Entering a room of 26 kindergartners with Johanns, Bush announced, "Hola, me llamo Jorge Bush," then read to the children in Spanish from a book called "Yo Soy Demaciado Grande" - "I'm Too Big."

Bush, who enjoyed strong support from Hispanic voters during his successful bid for re-election as governor last year, said his visit to the school symbolized his commitment to improving education and expanding opportunities for all segments of U.S. society.

Speaking to a group of 11 first-graders, Bush encouraged the students to learn to read so they could eventually attend college. He asked how many students planned to go to college, and nearly all raised their hands.

When one first-grader asked Bush why he wanted to be president, Bush answered, "because I want to make sure the American dream touches your life."

On Thursday, Bush will deliver a speech in Los Angeles outlining his education proposals. The speech will call for an expanded educational role for Head Start, a federal program for disadvantaged students, he said.

"My message is, the education of our children is a top priority for a hopeful society," he said.

But the United States must couple its quest for increased prosperity with a renewed emphasis on personal and civic responsibility, Bush said.

"I want to usher in an era of responsibility," he said, "unlike the last era when the message was, 'If it feels good, do it,' and 'If you've got a problem, blame someone else.'"

Rather than expanding government programs, the United States should "rally armies of compassion" to address societal ills, Bush said.

Faith-based institutions - churches, synagogues and mosques - as well as charities must take the lead by encouraging people to refrain from drug or alcohol abuse or having children out of wedlock, he said.

Bush did not address the question Tuesday of whether he ever used illegal drugs. In recent weeks, Bush has effectively denied using cocaine in the

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Gov. MIKE JOHANNS

past 25 years but refused to discuss whether he used drugs before then.

As the country strives to spread the fruits of the recent economic boom to all citizens, Bush said, it must strengthen its commitment to globalization and international security.

A continued commitment to free trade is essential for sustaining U.S. economic prosperity, especially for the struggling agricultural sector, Bush said in a speech at the ConAgra Global Training Facility.

"I'm very worried about the protectionist tendencies, both in the Democratic Party and in my party," he said. "Free trade equals high-paid, high-quality jobs."

Bush criticized the Clinton administration for missing an opportunity earlier this year to admit China into the World Trade Organization. Free trade agreements with China could expand China's U.S. imports by sevenfold, he said, expanding markets for U.S. farmers.

The United States should also boost farmers' prospects by continuing ethanol subsidies and imposing no further agricultural sanctions as diplomatic weapons, Bush said. He also said he supported the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, which introduced market-based reforms into U.S. farm policy.

"I strongly support the premise of the current law, which is that in order to spread prosperity to the agricultural sector, we need to open up markets overseas," he said.

Free trade is beneficial for all countries, he said. For example, he said he supported the North American Free Trade Agreement because it would improve Mexico's prosperity, which is in U.S. interests.

In the case of China, Bush said he believed increased free trade could force positive changes in Chinese society.

"I believe that trade offers an

opportunity for an entrepreneurial class to grow, which leads to human rights and freedom," he said.

But Bush also said a blind policy of economic engagement, oblivious to strategic threats posed by China, would fail.

"I believe the current policy of treating China as a strategic partner is the wrong approach," he said. "China ought to be viewed as a competitor, not a strategic partner."

China's improved nuclear technology, much of which was allegedly culled from U.S. weapons laboratories through espionage and its history of peddling nuclear technology throughout Asia, require that the United States recognize the security threat, he said.

Bush said he supported increased defense spending and the development of theater-based anti-ballistic missile systems.

"The world is full of madmen and terror, and in many ways is more dangerous than ever," he said. "It is important for the next president to keep the United States engaged on the world stage instead of retreating within the borders of the United States."

In an interview, Johanns said he was supporting Bush because he agreed with his political philosophy and was impressed by Bush's record as governor of Texas for the past five years.

"His message for Nebraska is rock-solid," Johanns said. "It is a pro-growth, pro-family, pro-agricultural message. I think this country is starved for leadership, and this man has done it."

Bush said Tuesday he is still "amazed" by his campaign's success to date.

"I never frankly thought I would be governor, let alone president," he said. "I hope it's because they know that if given the chance, I know how to lead."

Study: NU makes billions for state

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least one additional full- or part-time job was supported off campus, Troutman said.

Twenty-six thousand jobs were created as a result. Those jobs resulted in \$430 million of employment earnings, the study reported.

When including the number of people the university employs, the study found that 42,700 jobs were supported directly or indirectly by the University of Nebraska.

That means NU contributed a total of nearly \$960 million in employment earnings to the state during the 1997-98 fiscal year, according to the study.

The contributions made by student spending were also included in the report.

An earlier study by the Bureau of Business Research showed that the expenditures of NU students contribute more than \$150 million to the state's economy. Student expenditures supported 6,000 off-

campus jobs.

The study also reported that sales, income and property tax revenues contributed \$131 million to the state during the 1997-98 fiscal year.

Troutman said the study quantifies in dollars and cents the direct benefits the university brings to the state.

What it doesn't show is the economic impact that results from students being educated and becoming taxpayers, the effect of research activity on the state or the money that out-of-state students bring to the state when they settle in Nebraska, she said.

That research may be incorporated into a future study.

Troutman said she hopes the study will help people understand the amount the university contributes to the state economy.

"I hope most people know the University of Nebraska is important to the state," she said. "Not only are we a consumer of funds, we are a generator of funds."

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