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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** BLAKE WILSON: POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BETWEEN YOU, LT. GOV, SPEAKER AND  
CEO'S TO DISCUSS EDUCATION  
**DATE** 2/21/02  
**CC:** RENICK  
KINNEY

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Blake Wilson phoned this afternoon and asked what I was hearing on the education front. I told him it was all funding. He then asked if I thought it would be possible to try to set up a meeting between you, the Lt. Governor, Speaker and 10 CEO's to try to reach agreement to work together on education. I told him that this would be your decision, but that we had met with the leadership in earlier meetings and offered to work with them on a budget with real numbers, but that they had not wished to do so. He said that he thinks there has got to be some agreement to work together. I pointed out that situations like that at lunch Tuesday do not indicate that they wish to work together. I also explained that we have held town meetings, which he has probably seen reported in the papers, and that you have said that we are not there to discuss who is right and who is wrong, but to discuss what the situation is and how to make education a priority.

Blake said that what he has in mind is a meeting facilitated by a neutral, third-party. He has a woman by the name of Sylvia Sohoe in mind. He said that he sees the format of the meeting being to discuss what other states have done in similar situations and to give the CEO's an opportunity to express their opinion. I asked if they still felt education had to be a priority and he said yes, it is the MEC's number 1 priority.

I asked him what CEO's he had in mind and he said "Aubrey or George Schloegel" and I said, "All the guys that want him (*you*) to veto 1646." I suggested that if a meeting took place he would want to have a diverse group of businessmen and women from across the state and he agreed.

He asked me not to mention this to you yet, that he wanted to check with Sohoe as to her availability. I told him your time was limited next week due to Winter Meeting. He said that if you vetoed 1646 that it would probably take some time for the business community to cool down and want to attend such a meeting. He then added that he did not call under the pretense of this education meeting just to say veto 1646 and I just jokingly said "Yeah, yeah, Blake."

I told him to get back with me and I would present the idea to you. He doesn't think you know about this yet.