

THE CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238



Carole Chaet, Coordinator of Social Studies

Dear City Councillors:

Do you remember your introduction to American Government? A textbook describing the three layers of government (federal, state and local) and three branches (executive, legislative, and judicial) and not much else? Well, in the past decade, at least one organization has set out to change all that. A non-profit multipartisan organization called CLOSE UP is devoted to involving young people in the workings, not just the forms, of government.

Each year CLOSE UP participants from around the country travel to Washington, D. C. for a week of total immersion in how government works. This year, the group from our area will be going the week of March 23rd. Unlike most school field trips, this won't be one in which students are dragged from monument to museum. Instead, they will take part in organized workshops, meet members of Congress or their staff, representatives of cabinet level departments, and members of the media who produce the news that students get at home.

Total cost for the seven day CLOSE UP program is \$508.00 which includes all transportation, room, meals, accident insurance, and the materials the students will use while in Washington. Considering all that they will learn, it's not a very high price. But it is too high for many students and their families to handle alone. We are dedicated to assuring that the CLOSE UP experience is not restricted to only those students who are in economic levels with the ability to pay the total cost.

As a person well-known for your efforts to help the young, we believe you would be sympathetic to this kind of project. Any contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated. A check payable to the CLOSE UP Foundation is tax deductible and their number, for your records, is 23-7122882. We realize that today's economic conditions make everyone count each dollar. But consider; if many of today's officials had been exposed to an introduction of how government works in the way that CLOSE UP participants are, perhaps their actions and citizens' reactions might be different.

If I can provide you with any other information about the program, please feel free to call me during the day at 498-9200 X9473. If I can't take the call immediately, I'll return the call as soon as possible. Many thanks for any consideration you may give.

Thomas Conward

Tom Conward
Teacher/Coordinator
CLOSE UP PROGRAM

Cordially,

Carole Chaet

Carole Chaet
Social Studies Coordinator

7. 5-583

Comm. from Carole Chaet, Social Studies Co-
ordinator, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School
et al, Re: Close Up Program.

In City Council,

November 9, 1981

11/9/81

- Referred to Comm-

Copy sent to City Manager's
Office 11/12/81 mh