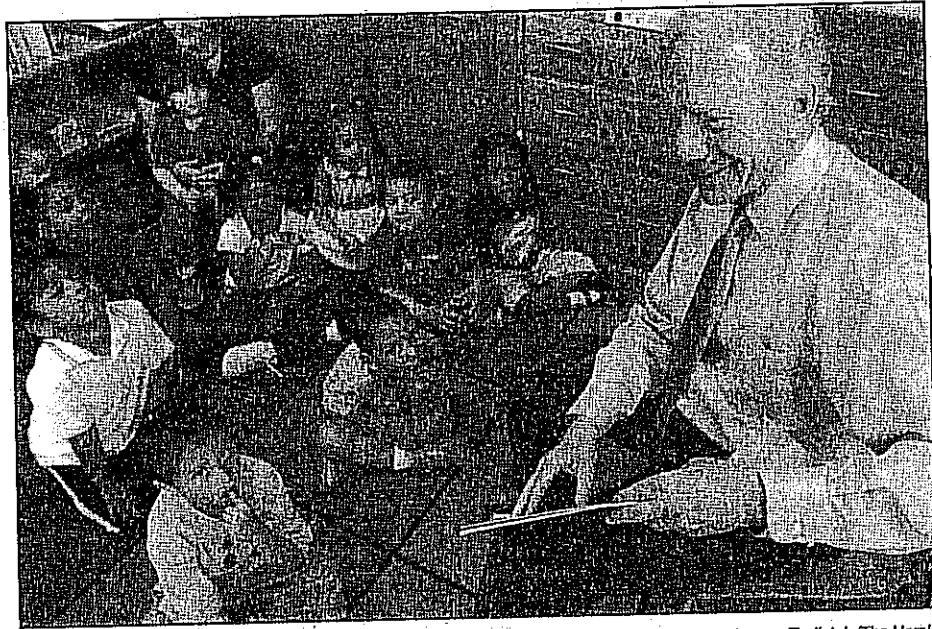




NEW BRITAIN
Lieberman visits
Head Start program,
vows to fight cuts

Page 5



Sen. Joe Lieberman reads "The Big Hungry Bear" to Head Start students in New Britain Thursday.
Lauren Tagliatale/The Herald

Sen. Lieberman vows a fight to restore Head Start cuts

Dem reads to children at Human Resource Agency

By **Scott Whipple**
Herald Staff

NEW BRITAIN — Senator Joe Lieberman promised Head Start workers Thursday he would fight against cuts to the federal Head Start program. Speaking at the Human Resources Agency on Clinton Street, the Democratic Senator said because of agencies like HRA "we know childhood education works."

The senator said budget cuts have the effect of dropping 19,000 children from programs around the country.

Later, Lieberman, who was accompanied by state Sen. Donald DeFronzo, D-6th Dist., read a picture book to three and four year olds about a mouse, a bear and "a big ripe strawberry." His

young audience took delight in his intonations and his interactions with them.

HRA Executive Director Rocco Tricarico told The Herald his agency is engaged in a multi-million dollar renovation and construction project slated for the fall. John Patrick, Jr., TD Banknorth's president and chief executive officer, presented Tricarico and the agency with a check for \$50,000 for its capital campaign fund.

Patrick, a Central Connecticut State University graduate, characterized New Britain "as one of the most loving and giving communities we do business with. Our success comes from the community; so, it's incumbent on us as a corporation to give back to the commu-

nity."

Tricarico called New Britain "an underserved community regarding early childhood education. However, we have a great opportunity to expand slots, and to bring about \$12 million in public and private investment back into the city."

Head Start Director Elizabeth Donnellan thanked Lieberman for his efforts. She said she welcomed the opportunity to talk to him about funding for poor families, and called on him to try to "restore the one percent across-the-board budget cut proposed by President Bush."

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