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OPENING REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT TO STUDENT  
NEWS CONFERENCE, PEASE AUDITORIUM, EASTERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY, YPSILANTI

It is a privilege and pleasure for me to meet with  
you this morning on the campus of Eastern Michigan  
University. I am sure you share my pride and pleasure  
that Congressman Wes Vivian can also be with us. We  
are fortunate, too, to have with us outstanding student  
leaders from this part of the state.

↳ One of my assignments as Vice President is to serve  
as Chairman of the President's Youth Opportunity Task  
Force. ↳ In this capacity, I have been deeply concerned  
that every young American have an opportunity to finish  
school, to secure a stimulating and worthwhile job, and to  
become a fully productive citizen of our society.

↳ I am especially proud of the students at Eastern Michigan University for organizing their "Campus Service Corps" to work with the teenagers of this community--to help them with their school work and to give them the encouragement they need to finish their education.

↳ One of the serious problems confronting our nation today is the large number of young people who fail to complete their high school and college education.

↳ This fall the federal government estimated that over 750,000 high school students would drop out of school this year. ↳ If school dropouts continue at the present pace, we will have 32 million adult non high school graduates in the labor force by 1975.

↳ This is a loss our nation cannot afford to bear.

↳ I have come to Ypsilanti--and I will be going to Detroit and Cleveland--to ask the young people and the

citizens of these areas, to recognize the urgent need to stop this tragic loss of human resources.

↳ More than four-fifths of our school dropouts have the capacity to graduate from high school and assume productive, well-paying jobs in our economy. — *now, let's see.*

↳ What do we do about it?

① First, we must make sure our schools are offering the kinds of relevant courses and training which will keep our young people in school.

*relevant  
interesting  
courses*

② Second, the entire community must pitch in to provide jobs, counseling, and support which will keep potential dropouts from actually leaving school.

③ ↳ We must provide special facilities in our school system to take care of returning school dropouts--so that they will be able to readjust and resume their academic training.

*Finally* ↳ Finally, we must provide the very best vocational education and manpower training opportunities for those

young people who simply are not able to resume their schooling. Every adult in this community, and every young person in this audience, has the personal responsibility to pitch in and let school dropouts--both actual and potential--know that we care about their future.

Today's and tomorrow's jobs will require more education--higher skills--more maturity and judgment--and more experience.

It is in the interest of every American to see that all our young people have a guaranteed opportunity to acquire these skills and become responsible and productive American citizens.

*Congressman*  
*2<sup>d</sup> Cong. DIST* Vivian

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President Sponberg, let me congratulate this University on having the good sense to select a Minnesotan to lead Eastern Michigan through the change and challenge of the 1960's. ~~I think that~~ the Board of Regents demonstrated unusual tolerance in overlooking your youthful exuberance in voting for an untried, inexperienced young man named Hubert Humphrey when he ran for Mayor of Minneapolis in 1945.

*The Youth - V.P. assignments*  
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↳ Finally, we must provide the very best vocational education and manpower training opportunities for those young people who simply are not able to resume their schooling. ↳ Every adult in this community, and every young person in this audience, has the personal responsibility to pitch in and let school dropouts -- both actual and potential -- know that we care about their future.

↳ So I say to you young people -- Stay  
in school and finish school. ↳ Louis Pasteur said,  
"Chance favors the prepared mind." Today, you  
have a matchless opportunity to prepare your mind.  
Do not waste that opportunity.

↳ And I say to you of my generation --  
parents, teachers, school administrators and  
concerned citizens, both here and listening to  
us in Warner Auditorium: You, too, have a role  
in this moment of crisis for our nation's youth.

↳ This University's catalogue quotes Alfred North  
Whitehead as saying, "Knowledge does not keep  
any better than fish."

!!

↳ It is up to you to keep it fresh, and attractive,  
and palatable to the young people of this audience  
and this state. ↳ You have no higher duty, no  
greater challenge, and no more exciting opportunity.

↳ Now, I welcome this opportunity to  
respond to the questions of 50 outstanding student  
leaders from this area.

~~(After the final questions, close with these words)~~

~~#~~

↳ During my visit with you, I couldn't help but notice the handsome flag of this University. My Latin is not as good as it was -- and it was never as good as it should have been -- but I think the motto means something like this. "If you want to see a beautiful penninsula, look around you." I read that motto as something more than a commercial for the beauties of Eastern Michigan. I read it as a special message to the youth of this district and of this state.

↳ If you want to see for yourself a future full of challenge and promise, don't despair -- just look around you.

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Finish school -- and then plan the next step.  
This University and many others like it offer  
you the chance to build for yourself a life  
full of hope and of beauty. Just look around  
you.

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