

*Didn't  
my mother believe it  
my father enjoy it*

Samuel Graves

REMARKS

*Bill can  
warm up! Please  
NEA*

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

*Mr. Mr.  
Wasmanski*

CLEVELAND, OHIO

FEBRUARY 7, 1966

*50th  
anniv.*

*I was with you  
in 1959 - Phil.*

I am happy to be here in the good company of  
my fellow-educators.

As you may know, I am a refugee from a college  
political science department.

*Teacher*

And in my twenty years of public service -- as  
mayor, as Senator, and as Vice President -- I have  
taken the approach of the educator. For I believe that  
the way enlightened ideas become public policy is through  
the enlistment of support and active advocacy by enlightened,  
informed people.

*Educator*

↳ Jefferson rightly said that no nation can be both ignorant and free.

↳ Certainly this has never been more true than today, when the very survival of free institutions -- and, for that matter, of mankind -- depends on our ability to absorb, to understand, and to wisely use the flood of information, impulses and events which engulfs us each day.

↳ It seems quite obvious to me, therefore, that urgent, national priority must be given to investment in education.

↳ And this is what is being done.!

↳ This Congress -- because of the legislation it has enacted, culminating in the landmark Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 -- has fully earned the right to be called "the Education Congress." ↳ It has set the basic foundation on which we can build American education in the difficult years ahead.

and this  
L ~~I think this~~ has happened for two reasons.

① L First, President Johnson, as a former teacher himself, feels the importance of education right down to the marrow of his bones, and has given superb leadership to our quest for better education.

② L Second, the majority of Americans have come to realize that the soundest, the most productive investment a nation can make is in the education of its children.

Listen! L We have leadership! And we have citizens willing to support leadership!

L Last week the President, in an historic special message to Congress, proposed giving education an added international dimension. L And, he laid special stress on the importance of education in the developing countries.

↳ Ever since old Ben Franklin, we Americans have believed with him that:

↳ "Early to bed, early to rise  
Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

↳ Well, for <sup>better than</sup> ~~a~~ good half of the world's people -- the 2/3 <sup>the</sup>  
half that live as peasant farmers in Asia, Africa, and  
Latin America -- Ben Franklin's formula just doesn't  
work.

↳ These people get up before sunrise. ↳ They go to  
bed not long after sunset. ↳ And they work hard in between.  
But they are lucky if they win, by their dawn-to-dark  
efforts, the barest subsistence.

↳ It is hard for us, in the comfort, convenience, and  
security that most of us enjoy, to truly know what life is  
like for those on the outside of affluence and well-being.

The Other World - The World  
of Despair & Poverty

Vi  
L Today, we are engaged in a great effort to help bring peace, stability -- and, finally, some degree of social and economic well-being -- <sup>Justice</sup> to the tortured nation of South Vietnam. L We are trying to help create an environment in which the Vietnamese people may be left in peace with the opportunity for self-determination and independence.

L We stand firm in our resolve to see this effort through.

L Yet how many of us truly appreciate the scope of the task -- even should Communist aggression and terrorism be checked tomorrow?

L Life for the Vietnamese peasant means living in ankle-deep black mud in the rainy season and choking dust in the dry season.

years of war

It means turning old at age 30 under the everyday burdens of existence. It means living with disease as a constant companion. It means hopelessness for the future.

It means illiteracy and ignorance. Life like this means, as one American information officer has put it,

"cutting off the development of a man's mind, his birthright access to thousands of years of human civilization, human thought, human enjoyment of this world."

The peasants of Vietnam -- and of other nations on other continents -- live many thousands of miles away from here. But they are nonetheless of crucial importance to us.

You all recall the poem by Edwin Markham inspired by Millet's painting, "The Man with the Hoe." It begins:

"Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans  
Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground

↳ The emptiness of ages in his face . . . "

And Markham concludes with the solemn warning:

"O masters, lords and rulers in all lands

How will the future reckon with this man . . .

After the silence of the centuries?"

↳ Make no mistake: The time of reckoning has come and  
the silence of the centuries has ended. ↳ The outsiders of  
mankind have awakened to the fact that hunger and  
poverty are not inevitable -- not written in the stars. !

↳ How and where will these people turn for their chance  
for a better life? ↳ Will they cast their lot with peaceful,  
democratic means? Or will they fall victim to the promises  
-- or brute-force -- of totalitarians?

*This is the  
Continuing Question of our age.*

↳ The Chinese Communists, indeed, have frankly announced their master plan for the future -- to turn the peasant masses of the world, largely non-white, against the privileged minority in the industrial nations, largely white.

↳ I believe that we can -- as we must -- meet this challenge! It is the supreme challenge of this century.

↳ We first accepted this challenge with President Truman's historic 1949 Inaugural Address, launching the Point Four program of technical assistance to the developing countries, and we have been at work meeting it ever since!

↳ We have done enough, and learned enough, to realize that there is no single panacea. But one thing has become increasingly clear in recent years -- that, while investment in harbors, dams and factories is important, investment in human beings and their capabilities is critical -- investment such as we make in the citizens of our own country!

People's Power

*and we  
build  
for peace!*

↳ That is why the foreign aid program proposed by  
the President last week puts health and education in the  
forefront as "basic building blocks to lasting peace."

↳ "Education," The President has said, "lies at the  
heart of every nation's hope and purposes. It must be  
at the heart of our international relations."

↳ Well, here I am speaking to the converted. But I  
think you must have been pleased to hear this basic  
principle re-stated. *America the Educator!*

↳ We have proposed the enlargement of the programs  
of educational assistance administered by A.I.D. in  
developing countries, with special emphasis upon teacher  
training and vocational and scientific education.

↳ We have urged stepped-up research in development of  
new techniques for teaching basic skills and eradicating  
illiteracy.

↳ We have called for the expansion of the U.S.  
Summer Teaching Corps for teacher-training workshops  
in the developing countries.

↳ We have offered help to these countries in their  
programs for teaching English as a language of international  
communication and national development.

*Food for Peace*  
↳ We have proposed the use of counterpart funds to  
support bi-national educational foundations and assist  
technical training in food production.

And we know that this is not a one-way street.

↳ We need to know more about other countries, and  
they have much to teach us. We have made a number of  
proposals for this purpose including the imaginative one  
of a Peace Corps in reverse -- "Volunteers to America."

↳ I commend this message and these programs for the kind of thoughtful attention which I know that you, as professional educators, will give them.

↳ Now let me turn to something of vital concern to us, both as educators and as members of the great family of man.

↳ Now and then, in the accounts of Americans who have spent their lives in the developing nations as teachers, we run across observations like this.

"In the beginning, youngsters are bright and eager to learn. But too many of them seem to lose their zest year by year."

And occasionally some acute observer will say:

"The light seems to fade out of their eyes."

What these perceptive teachers sense almost intuitively, recent scientific research has shown to be all too tragically true.

We have known for a long while that malnutrition causes physical retardation. In very recent years, we have come to realize that it can cause lasting mental retardation as well.

The statistics about malnutrition in the children of the developing countries are frightening. and at home,

Half of them die before they reach their sixth birthday, many of seemingly trivial childhood diseases such as measles -- largely because their undernourished bodies cannot stand up to them. (upper volta)

Of those that survive, 7 out of 10 suffer from malnutrition, and particularly from protein deficiency!

↳ Up to the past year or so, we had thought that, if  
we could assure every child in these countries the  
opportunity for an education, he would take full advantage  
of it.

↳ Now we realize that we must start much further back  
if these children are to retain and develop the capacity  
to learn.

↳ That is why the President has laid new stress as  
well on nutrition, on a balanced diet, on food enriched  
with proteins and vitamins.

↳ We know, in undertaking these initiatives, that we  
cannot do it all alone. That is why there is a strong  
emphasis on self-help, and on helping the developing  
countries to grow more of their own food. !

Tech ASSIST

↳ And, of course, we welcome and encourage the contributions of other countries which, as ours, are blessed with agricultural abundance.!

↳ It was a full week in Washington, last week! For, as well as calling for the enactment of the International Education Act of 1966, the President urged last week parallel international action for health.

↳ He proposed the creation of an International Career Service in Health. ↳ He offered our national commitment to help meet health manpower needs in the developing countries . . . to step up campaigns to eradicate or control certain of the major contagious diseases which afflict the developing nations . . . and to cooperate in worldwide efforts to deal with population problems.

*President's  
food  
income*

Education for peace, food for peace, health for peace -- these are practical and basic ways in which we Americans may help meet mankind's plea for something more than a struggle for everyday existence.

These are ways we can make the years ahead not years of disaster and destruction but years of hope and progress. — ~~There is what~~

For, as Arnold Toynbee has well said, our generation has the chance to "be well remembered not for its horrifying crimes nor its astonishing inventions, but because it is the first generation since the dawn of history in which mankind dared to believe it practical to make the benefits of civilization available to the whole human race."

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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
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