

President Mairon Thompson

Congressman James Mackay  
champion of Education

Dr. Lucille Burnett  
REMARKS  
Betty Starnes

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Joyce Kenley  
DEKALB COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Ⓧ Citizen Panels  
In Progress:  
consult on Problems  
of Educ, Poverty,  
Health, Transportation,  
economic development  
lab etc  
Ⓧ Traffic Safety

Cong. Mackay +  
Sen. Talmadge  
graduates of Dekalb system  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
APRIL 29, 1966

Gov Carl Sanders  
Sen Cherry

It is a pleasure to be here with people who look  
ahead.

You are engaged in commemorating the past -  
and commemorating it magnificently - at Stone Mountain.

But your eyes are fixed upon the future - literally,  
on the stars. For, under Title III of the 1965 Elementary  
and Secondary Education Act of 1965, you have asked for  
and received a grant to assist in construction of a

planetarium and observatory. but you voted  
\$300,000 local money - Fed-Local  
Cooperation

Ⓧ 2 of the <sup>40</sup> finalists out of 25,000 came from  
the Atlanta Area - National Science Talent Search  
1-out of Dekalb School System

Teachers  
in  
Govt!

"Every man his  
Chance"

Community College!

This is precisely the kind of innovation which that Act - a landmark in the history of American education -- was designed to encourage.

↳ This legislation was not intended as an effort by the federal government to take over and direct the nation's schools. Instead, it was designed to give impetus to creative local experiments in education.

And to help improve quality of education - That is what I have been telling education

audiences all over the country. But I won't dwell on that theme here. I would be preaching to the converted. For I know that you have been and are providing education of excellence and of imagination.

↳ Today, instead, I shall direct your attention to even newer and wider horizons.

Education - the new Power - the new Wealth - ~~the new~~

ⓧ You know the importance of educ Part of Amer. History - Key to our progress, Stg

Ed. - Key

your Community college - not - not - Local!

aid to the Deprived!

Teacher Corps!

Private + Public Schools

Low Drop out record! from your School System

Yesterday, we thought of the classroom as confined by four walls. Today, those walls have been opened up to the community as a whole. Tomorrow's <sup>our</sup> challenge is to open them up to the wide world.

This is what President Johnson - who began his career as a teacher - sought to do a few weeks ago with his historic message to Congress on international education.

He said then: "Education lies at the heart of every nation's hopes and purposes. It must be at the heart of our international relations. "

Of course, you knew this all along! But now it has been stated for the first time, by an American President, as national policy.

The proposed International Education Act of 1966 embodies that commitment.

↳ We have known for a long time that the best investment we can make in America is in the education of our children. And we have come to realize that the same thing is true in the developing countries - countries seeking to raise themselves to nationhood against far greater obstacles than we in America ever faced. (S)

Let me take as an illustration, because it is timely, topical, and even controversial, the beleaguered nation of South Vietnam.

In the years we have been working with the people of South Vietnam, we have found that their faith in education is as high as our own.

They will sacrifice anything else to ensure a good education for their children. In many villages they have not waited for government help in building schools. They have built them with their own hands.

Since 1954 - that is, since South Vietnam attained its independence - the number of students enrolled in elementary schools has nearly tripled. The number of classrooms and the number of teachers have increased at almost the same rate.

↳ The growth in secondary education has been even more dramatic. There are nearly seven times as many secondary students as in 1954 and nearly six times as many teachers.

↳ There were no teachers colleges in South Vietnam twelve years ago. Now there are five, with an enrollment of almost 2500 future teachers.

↳ Only a few years ago, hardly any textbooks were used in the elementary schools. And those that existed were crudely done and unattractive. The teaching was mostly by rote.

∟ Now fourteen million elementary school textbooks are being printed in South Vietnam and three neighboring Asian countries, and almost seven million have already been distributed.

*We have helped*

∟ The actual writing of the textbooks has been done by teams of two or three Vietnamese author-educators, plus an artist who is generally a graduate of the Higher School of Fine Arts.

∟ The books deal with both urban and rural scenes, and the people portrayed are neither very rich nor very poor.

∟ The series of textbooks on health begins with simple down-to-earth lessons on personal hygiene.

∟ The series on civics begins by teaching "consideration for others" in everyday life, before going on to local and national affairs.

∟ The series on history, while faithful to the facts, is designed to show ~~that~~, in Vietnam's many centuries of history, there is good cause for national pride.

∟ These textbooks are a source of great satisfaction to the children. They can take them home with them - and, in many cases, they are the first books their families have ever seen.

∟ Because most of Vietnam's present elementary teachers have had no experience in teaching from textbooks, special workshops and seminars have been arranged so that they can learn how to use them most effectively.

∟ In addition to the textbooks, there are plans to provide a total of 10,000 teaching kits - including maps, manuals, charts, feltboards and mimeograph duplicators - to elementary schools throughout the country.

Each of the 43 provinces will also be provided with motion picture projectors, tape recorders, record players, generators and transformers.

The initiation of television in Vietnam - the first telecast took place on February 7 - offers further opportunities for education. *I was there*

*Educational TV* The plan is to have a television receiver in every classroom, in every elementary and secondary school in Vietnam. They will be used for the teaching of the A. B. C's, science, mathematics and the English language.

These are impressive figures, but they are only figures. I wish I could have taken you with me to the typical schools I saw in South Vietnam.

They were not impressive. Some had one room, with brick walls, plastered and whitewashed. Some had several rooms in a row, built year by year.

Each school had a well nearby for water - a covered well, setting an example for the villagers.

↳ Each had sanitary facilities.

The children were as bright-eyed and lively as any you will see anywhere -- and no matter where they came from, they were clean and neatly dressed.

↳ The schools were co-educational, with boys sitting on one side of the aisle, and girls on the other.

↳ There were parents' associations too, much like our own PTA's --- except that they hadn't gotten around to concerning themselves with teaching and school administration.

↳ Instead, they were digging wells, applying whitewash and repairing damage.

To see these schools, I felt, was to see the future of Vietnam.

~~and~~ The Communists seem to fear that this may be so. They have made the schools a prime target. In one province alone 70 classrooms were built in a year -- but 56 were dynamited in the same period by the Viet Cong.

↳ But let me put this in proper perspective: South Vietnam is just one developing country out of many.

↳ Everywhere, people are no longer content to put up with lives of poverty, disease, ignorance, hunger and despair.

↳ Everywhere they seek a better life, a higher standard of human dignity -- for themselves and, above all, for their children. For, just as in America, their highest hopes center around their children and the schools they attend.

We have a vital interest in this restless two-thirds of the world - if only because its unrest carries with it a threat to the peace.

↳ But we have an even more vital, positive interest: Our interest in the survival and growth in the world of the kind of freedom we ourselves value so highly. For, as Thomas Jefferson so often said, man cannot be both ignorant and free.

↳ And, as he also said, in words that are as pertinent now as they were nearly two centuries ago, our task must be to "educate and inform the whole mass of the people"... to "enable them to see that it is to their interest to preserve peace and order . . . they are the only sure reliance for the preservation of liberty."

↳ That is why we are putting aid-to-education front and center in our international policy, as we are in our policy at home.

Finally, let me make the point that we regard international education as a two-way street. We are as eager to learn as we are willing to teach.

Among the proposals to this purpose, the most novel and imaginative is the establishment of an Exchange Peace Corps, a kind of "Volunteers to America". It will bring men and women here from abroad, many to work in our schools to give Americans a deeper understanding of other languages and cultures.

I have been a teacher of one kind or another all my adult life, and not only in the university classroom where I began.

To be at all effective in American public life, one has to be able to arouse public opinion to the support of policies that need public support. In the broadest sense, a politician must be an educator as well.

Already, the teacher is as important in our international relations as the diplomat or the soldier.

Tomorrow may he be even more important.

I hope that, as history is written, our nation may be known not as a global gendarme, but as a source of light and learning -- the modern-day equivalent of that ancient Athens of which Pericles proudly said:

"We Athenians throw open our city to the world, and never by alien acts exclude foreigners from any opportunity of learning."

*The teacher - not the warrior*  
*The richness of Learning - not the wealth of Goods*  
*The Power of the intellect - not the Power of the military*  
*Democracy*

This, then, is the challenge before us: Not only to educate the children of America but also to help bring education to every darkened corner where men still bend under the weight of ignorance. For it is true that freedom cannot live together with ignorance. Between the two, the choice is clear.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY BEFORE THE  
DEKALB COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, ATLANTA, GEORGIA,  
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