

M.C. Jack Bush
Mayor Walter Wenink
Rev Otto Dale

Le Roy Peterson
Henry Tweten
Kay Peterson

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS

THE HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Richard Moe

DFL MEETING

Bob Bergland

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

APRIL 3, 1970

Carlyle Band

Madrigal Sengoe

Steno Dennis Pederson
Atty Gen Warren Sporn
Wendell Anderson
Nick Coleman
Dave Strawn
Geo. Scott
Russ Schwandt
Tom Byrne

I want to examine, for a moment, the President's
Education Message, and what it means in terms of today's
needs.

It has become the fashion, in this Administration,
to talk of reorganization and reform, to speak earnestly
of the need for more "research".

Lord knows, we need a good deal of both.

But unfortunately - in the new vocabulary of Presidential
messages - we are coming to understand that, to Mr. Nixon,
these are code words for "delayed action".

Muriel Schlundt

Republicans
My mother (alcoholic)

Park Cars!

"For you as our Trustees
Lead us not into temptation"

Henry Neekemoe
1942 Fergus Falls - 16 days

Barney Allan - Old timers

The President - under the heading "The Future of Learning
in America" - tells us that we have a great deal to learn about
learning. Indeed we do. There is a great deal we don't yet
know about how to teach children.

↳ But we do know some things. We have been teaching
great numbers of children for a great many years in our
nation, and I think we have learned a few things.

↳ For example: we know children learn better in a class-
room of twenty youngsters than in a classroom of forty.

↳ We know that children learn better when they have access
to books and crayons and audio-visual aids.

↳ We know that children who are not learning can be helped
by specialists.

↳ We know that quality education includes
~~counselors~~, Counseling, often
psychiatric care, even medical
+ dental care.

↳

We know that Property Taxes are at an all-time high and that Quality Education needs money from the Federal Government.

-3-

001692

We know that

These things cost money. We know

There is an indisputable correlation between per pupil expenditures and pupil achievement levels.

A quick glance at state-by-state expenditures for education and state-by-state failure rates on the Armed Forces Qualification Test -- a fifth grade equilivency examination - will bear this out.

We know too that it doesn't do very much good to spread a little bit of money ^{all} around -- that improvement almost always comes after intensive, concentrated effort.

With these things in mind, let us look again at the Education message.

The President proposes that we put-off, or cut back, promising programs until "we understand the mystery of the learning process".

The only money he wholeheartedly agrees should be spent
 is two-hundred million dollars for the "Right to Read"
 program proposed by U. S. Commissioner of Education
 James Allen.

*Emphasis on
 Volunteers -
 10 year effort*

The "Right to Read" is not a Program - it is a Public
 Relations slogan.

*It could be of major importance
 but it will take money!*

The two-hundred million dollar fund is fiscal
sleight-of-hand. There is no extra money - there are no
new funds - there is no new effort.

^{fiscal 1969}
 Last year the Office of Education spent fifty million
dollars on school libraries and one-hundred sixty-four
million dollars on state grants for "innovative projects" --
a total of two-hundred fourteen million dollars.

This is the two-hundred million dollars the President
 is calling "new" funding for a "new" program.

↳ It is actually fourteen million dollars less than was spent in fiscal 1969. It is not new money, it is restored money.

↳ This year ^{3 fiscal 1970} the President cut libraries out of the education budget entirely, and he cut fifty million dollars from funds for innovative programs. ↳ Now he proposes to restore this money -- and call it new funding!

↳ Thus we start with devious accounting procedures.

↳ But the deception is greater than that.

↳ Three quarters of this money goes directly to the states to do with as they wish. By law, it is State money. ↳ It is not available to the ^{US} Commissioner of Education for any Federal program, however meritorius. Only fifty million dollars - the library money - can be spent at the discretion of the Federal government. - *and we need*

library money!

↳ There are ten million youngsters in this nation who are reading retardates.

↳ The much heralded "Right to Read" program will invest the magnificent sum of five dollars per year in each of these youngsters.

↳ I'm afraid we can't buy much reading improvement with that.

↳ Now you mark my words: two or three years from now, someone in this administration is going to say, "aha, we poured half a billion dollars into this "Right to Read" program, and it didn't work at all".

↳ And they will cut the education budget again.

In the meantime, the President will reaffirm his commitment to education, will announce the appointment of a National Reading Council -- and perhaps even the

creation of a National Reading Center -- an idea he has
been toying with lately --- and many of our schools will go
right on turning out youngsters who can't read after ten
and twelve years of public education!

↳ We'll be no closer to solving the problem than we are
today, In fact, we will be farther behind than we were five
years ago when the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
was passed and President Johnson declared education "the
first work of these times".

"If we are learning anything from our experiences, we
are learning that it is time for us to go to work, and the "first
work" of these times and the "first work" of our society is
education", President Johnson said.

↳ President Johnson, my friends, put his money where
his mouth was.

↳ I call on President Nixon to do the same!

We will spend 3 times as much
money on military housing
this year as the proposed
budget for Reading Program

One Aircraft carrier equals
 $\frac{1}{2}$ the Total ~~Education~~ proposed
Federal Elementary + Secondary
Educ budget for 1971

*The nations business,
the Peoples business.*

Education is a serious business. It is an investment the nation needs. If we want to invest more than words, we are going to have to make some choices. For example:

↳ If we cut three billion dollars from our exorbitant investment in strategic weapons research, we could really have a reading program in this country!

↳.. If we held back on the second stage of the anti-ballistic missile system, we could really have a reading program in this country and a few other things as well.

↳ ~~Smaller cutbacks in the Defense budget could help meet other educational needs.~~ Forty-thousand elementary and secondary schools in the United States have no school libraries at all -- a great many of those schools are right here in Minnesota.

↳ While we wait for President Nixon to establish a National Institute of Education, children are going hungry for books.

While we wait for President Nixon to find the "perfect"
 teaching techniques, our antiquated and overcrowded school
 plants continue to deteriorate for want of adequate state and
 local tax funds. Property tax rates have risen to intolerable
 levels. In community after community, school tax and bond
measures are failing as citizens find themselves unwilling
 or unable to support additional revenue measures.

Federal aid to education, using funds drawn from the broad
Federal tax base, is the only answer for many impoverished
 school communities.

*Federal Trust Fund from
Oil Shales - Oil from
Continental Shelf!*

We must provide this help.

There is no way to go back, no way to make up to youngsters
 deprived in their early years of decent schools. This is not
 a deferable item.

*"Civilization is a race between Education
and Catastrophe"*

↳ These are the serious educational problems in our country my friends, and, if money won't solve them, it will certainly go a long way to help!

↳ Of course we need more research, Mr. President. But we need money too. Let's not offer bread crusts to school districts that are dying of thirst. Let's reaffirm our National Commitment to children, to education - and to fiscal honesty.

####

~~Call Caryl on this and also on Pollution~~

MEMORANDUM

March 17, 1970

TO: Hubert H. Humphrey
FROM: Caryl Conner
SUBJECT: DFL Speech

~~Disodin
regain in history
annals~~

Because this is for the DFL, I have indulged my partisan outrage at Mr. Nixon's educational flimflamery.

You asked that I include the status of neighborhood health centers in this speech. I haven't because:

- a. I had a fair amount of education stuff and you wanted a very short speech, and
- b. I couldn't get any information. Charlie Schultze says they aren't identified in the new budget and he doesn't know how to dig out the information without considerable effort. The money might be in OEO, or it might be in HEW, but it doesn't appear as an identifiable program. There is mention in the OEO budget for pilot hospital out-patient services, but the dollars are not broken down.

~~NOX~~

If you want me to do something on this later, I'll see if I can find a friend left in one of the agencies who can help.

P.S. Please note that I do not prepare any speech for release unless I have your OK, so let me know as soon as possible on all of these -- the pollution one, this one, etc.



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org