

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

St. Paul, Minnesota

August 21, 1972

On behalf of the people of the State of Minnesota I would like to welcome the delegates and alternates of the American Federation of Teachers.

Today I come to you with a very direct message.

Today the teachers of America are on the threshold of becoming a powerful and progressive political force.

And today the time has come for teachers to become a partisan force.

Not partisan in politics -- for this is your own decision.

But partisan for education, for our children, for teachers, for people.

I call on you to man the barricades of the war on ignorance.

I call on you to examine the records of those who shape and make educational policies to see who your real friends are.

Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew are not the friends of the American Federation of Teachers. There is no doubt about that.

The Nixon-Agnew administration has been not only anti-education, anti-teacher, anti-children, but it has been anti-truth as it blatantly breaks its promises to the American people.

Let's look at the record:

-- On two occasions when the Congress appropriated more than \$5 billion for the education of our children, this Republican President said:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- When the need was clear to aid pre-school children, this Republican president said:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- When the hungry children of America cried out for an expanded school feeding program this Republican President said:

"NO, NO GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

Yes, a record of broken promises, vetoes, cutbacks and unmet crises have been part and parcel of the story of American education for the past four years.

What should a President of the United States be doing in the field of education?

Let me outline some of the goals and objectives which must guide a President and the Congress in formulating educational policies.

I have always prided myself on being a teacher -- even in politics. I've seen my many years in public service as ones where I helped educate this nation to learn what we must do to make America a more humane and progressive force in the world.

In the creation of educational policies for a great nation we must be guided by Jefferson's philosophy that ignorance is an alien force in a democratic society. "We can't be both free and ignorant," he said.

The great desire for the improvement in the quality of human life in this nation cannot be realized without a firm and total commitment to providing better education for our children.

Until all levels of government and the people recognize the role which education plays as a force for change in attaining that quality, we will have failed the goal which says: "Let each become all he was created capable of being."

This is what I want for American education -- not only for children, but for teachers, administrators and all who contribute to our educational system.

I believe that America needs a dramatic, and creative educational policy.

The time has come to end the patchwork and stopgap provisions of the past. We must think boldly and be willing to bear the cost of commitment to our most valuable resource: the youth of America.

I would like to discuss some of the major points which must guide American educational policies in the 1970's.

Congress must move now to establish a trust fund for education that would guarantee at least one third of the cost of elementary and secondary education from the federal government.

With this method, the schools would know in advance what funds would be available and these resources would be free from zealous budget cutters.

Any such fund must guarantee maximum local and state control. But it should also require the meeting of national objectives to insure every child a quality education.

And all of you must take the lead in defining what quality education is. Right now, it's a term everyone tosses around but no one seems to define in terms of the day to day activities which will insure that each child is given the maximum opportunity to develop his or her potential to the fullest.

I believe the creation of a Cabinet level Department of Education with a secretary who would have direct access to the highest levels of government should be the number one educational priority of any President.

A man or woman of the caliber and courage of the late great Commissioner of Education James Allen should head this new department.

As part of any educational policy, a President must enforce the law of the land and not subvert the rulings of the Supreme Court in the area of civil and human rights. We can't move backwards as we have been led to do by the present administration.

A President must not leave the task of achieving inter-racial justice solely to the schools. We must have housing programs that permit people to enjoy home ownership in communities of their choice.

And part of guaranteeing open neighborhoods throughout America is the goal of providing adequate incomes to all people so that home ownership and home improvement are attainable goals.

To do this, we need jobs. We need a sound economy with economic policies which are fair.

We all realize that unless the parents of the children you teach have decent incomes, their education is bound to suffer. And their parents need jobs.

I am committed to seeing that the Congress and the President guarantee the right to a job for every American capable of working.

And while I am on the subject of jobs, I want to point out the tragedy which is now occurring because in the midst of a serious crisis in the quality of education there are nearly 20,000 experienced teachers without work and nearly 320,000 new teachers without jobs. If this trend continues, by 1976 there will be a surplus of 600,000 teachers. It will be impossible to meet the educational needs of this

nation with hundreds of thousands of skilled and talented teachers idle because we lack the funds to hire them. This is where I hope the one-third federal funding of public education will close the alarming gap between skilled teachers and children in need of better educations.

And in order that teachers be free to teach as creatively as they can, I believe the Congress must move now to establish a national collective bargaining law for the teachers of America with all of the prerogatives that other organized employees in the private sector enjoy.

I deplore the situation that leads to strikes. But teachers must be guaranteed the right to seek a redress of their grievances.

The right to bargain collectively must come from federal law. Unfortunately, too many state laws are inadequate. And some states have no such laws and little prospect that they will be enacted.

Another right belonging to the teachers of America to which I am committed would be federal standards and guarantees in the provision of portable pension and retirement benefits.

It is wrong and unfair for a teacher who has devoted his life to the education profession to be shortchanged in his pension and retirement benefits simply because he has moved from one state to another during the course of a career. Portable pensions are a fundamental right that is late in coming but badly needed now.

Justice for our children and for yourselves demands that you as teachers play an important role in the American political process.

All of you must lift your sights beyond the school board and legislature.

The only hope we have for the kind of new educational policies I have outlined today lies with the Congress and the Presidency.

- Funds for quality education in urban and rural America.
- A fair economy.
- The guarantee of equal education opportunities.
- The food to thwart the hunger of American children.
- And the Commitment to change the ways of the past and turn toward new directions in education and teachers' rights depends upon the person who sits in the White House and the men and the women who serve in the Congress.

I ask you to remember this as we embark on the serious business of an election year. This is the time when America's policies for the coming decade will be determined.

This is the time when teachers must speak out for the future of our children.

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ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

AUGUST 21, 1972

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① The Schools + Teachers cannot
alone cure America's social ills!

② Quality Education ~~includes~~
requires that we attack
basic Problems—

(1) Economic Development

Jobs,

(2) cleaning up our cities -
Stumps, Housing

(3) modernizing rural America

And for our children

(1) adequate nutrition
universal School lunch

(2) Health Care

(3) Pre-school

(4) Child Care Centers

St. Paul Federation Local 28 - Hoob [redacted]

(K) James Melosh - David Selden

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(X) Barnes noack

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, Jim

the Governor is

~~I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME~~ THE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES OF

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

L TODAY I COME TO YOU WITH A VERY DIRECT MESSAGE.

L TODAY THE TEACHERS OF AMERICA ARE ON THE THRESHOLD
OF BECOMING A POWERFUL AND PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL FORCE.

L AND TODAY THE TIME HAS COME FOR TEACHERS TO BECOME A
PARTISAN FORCE.

L NOT PARTISAN IN POLITICS -- FOR THIS IS YOUR OWN
DECISION.

L BUT PARTISAN FOR EDUCATION, FOR OUR CHILDREN, FOR
TEACHERS, FOR PEOPLE.

Gov Anderson - David Roe

OK

I CALL ON YOU TO MAN THE BARRICADES OF THE WAR ON
IGNORANCE, ^{*}-on Prejudice, -on Discrimination.

and

I CALL ON YOU TO EXAMINE THE RECORDS OF THOSE WHO
SHAPE AND MAKE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES TO SEE WHO YOUR REAL

FRIENDS ARE. *! I speak to you as a former member
of AFT - a former teacher - an early
and consistent advocate of Ed to Edie.*

*Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew are not the friends of
Education - Teachers or School*

~~THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS. THERE IS NO DOUBT~~
Children
~~ABOUT THAT.~~

~~THE NIXON-AGNEW ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN NOT ONLY
ANTI-EDUCATION, ANTI-TEACHER, ANTI-CHILDREN, BUT IT HAS
BEEN ANTI-TRUTH AS IT BLATANTLY BREAKS ITS PROMISES TO
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.~~

LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD:

L -- ON TWO OCCASIONS WHEN THE CONGRESS APPROPRIATED
 MORE THAN \$5 BILLION FOR THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN,

THIS REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- WHEN THE NEED WAS CLEAR TO AID PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN *in*
the child care program --
 THIS REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- *When it came to*
 -- ~~WHEN THE HUNGRY CHILDREN OF AMERICA CRIED OUT FOR~~

AN EXPANDED SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM THIS REPUBLICAN

PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

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AND JUST LAST WEEK, AFTER THE CONGRESS HAD
APPROVED A VITALLY IMPORTANT HEW & DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL THAT CONTAINED \$30.5
BILLION FOR EXPANDED HEALTH, EDUCATION, ^{welfare} AND MANPOWER
PROGRAMS FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED, THIS REPUBLICAN
PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

Yes, A RECORD OF BROKEN PROMISES, VETOES, CUTBACKS

AND UNMET CRISES HAVE BEEN PART AND PARCEL OF THE STORY

OF AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

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WHAT SHOULD A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BE DOING
IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION?

Goals

LET ME OUTLINE SOME OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
WHICH MUST GUIDE A PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS IN FORMULATING
EDUCATIONAL POLICIES.

Political

I HAVE ALWAYS PRIDED MYSELF ON BEING A TEACHER --
EVEN IN POLITICS. I'VE SEEN MY MANY YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE
AS ONES WHERE I HELPED EDUCATE THIS NATION TO LEARN WHAT
WE MUST DO TO MAKE AMERICA A MORE HUMANE AND PROGRESSIVE
FORCE IN THE WORLD.

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IN THE CREATION OF EDUCATIONAL POLICIES FOR A GREAT NATION WE MUST BE GUIDED BY JEFFERSON'S PHILOSOPHY THAT IGNORANCE IS AN ALIEN FORCE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. "WE CAN'T BE BOTH FREE AND IGNORANT," HE SAID.

THE GREAT DESIRE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE IN THIS NATION CANNOT BE REALIZED WITHOUT A FIRM AND TOTAL COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING BETTER EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

UNTIL ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE ROLE WHICH EDUCATION PLAYS AS A FORCE FOR CHANGE IN ATTAINING THAT QUALITY, WE WILL HAVE FAILED THE GOAL WHICH SAYS: "LET EACH BECOME ALL HE WAS CREATED CAPABLE OF BEING."

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↳ THIS IS WHAT I WANT FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION -- NOT ONLY
FOR CHILDREN, BUT FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND ALL WHO
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

I BELIEVE THAT AMERICA NEEDS A DRAMATIC, AND CREATIVE
EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

THE TIME HAS COME TO END THE PATCHWORK AND STOPGAP
PROVISIONS OF THE PAST. WE MUST THINK BOLDLY AND BE WILLING
TO BEAR THE COST OF COMMITMENT TO OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE:
THE YOUTH OF AMERICA.

I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE MAJOR POINTS WHICH
MUST GUIDE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL POLICIES IN THE 1970's.

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Trust fund

CONGRESS MUST MOVE NOW TO ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND FOR
EDUCATION THAT WOULD GUARANTEE ^{*up to*} ~~AT LEAST~~ ONE THIRD OF THE
COST OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FROM THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT.

↳ WITH THIS METHOD, THE SCHOOLS WOULD KNOW IN ADVANCE
WHAT FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND THESE RESOURCES WOULD
BE FREE FROM ZEALOUS BUDGET CUTTERS.

↳ ANY SUCH FUND MUST GUARANTEE MAXIMUM LOCAL AND STATE
CONTROL. BUT IT SHOULD ALSO REQUIRE THE MEETING OF NATIONAL
OBJECTIVES TO INSURE EVERY CHILD A QUALITY EDUCATION.

*Quality Educ
what is it!*

AND ALL OF YOU MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN DEFINING WHAT

QUALITY EDUCATION IS. RIGHT NOW, IT'S A TERM EVERYONE

TOSSES AROUND BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO DEFINE IN TERMS OF THE

DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL INSURE THAT EACH CHILD IS

GIVEN THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP HIS OR HER POTENTIAL

TO THE FULLEST.

L ~~DELETE~~ THE CREATION OF A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT

OF EDUCATION WITH A SECRETARY WHO WOULD HAVE DIRECT ACCESS

TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE THE NUMBER

ONE EDUCATIONAL PRIORITY OF ANY PRESIDENT.

*Cabinet
Dept of
Educ.*

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Collective Bargaining

~~II~~

AND IN ORDER THAT TEACHERS BE FREE TO TEACH AS
CREATIVELY AS THEY CAN, I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS MUST MOVE NOW
TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAW FOR THE
TEACHERS OF AMERICA, ~~WITH ALL OF THE PREROGATIVES THAT OTHER~~
~~ORGANIZED EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ENJOY.~~

~~I DEPLORE THE SITUATION THAT LEADS TO STRIKES, BUT
TEACHERS MUST BE GUARANTEED THE RIGHT TO SEEK A REDRESS OF
THEIR GRIEVANCES.~~

THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY MUST COME FROM
FEDERAL LAW. UNFORTUNATELY, TOO MANY STATE LAWS ARE
INADEQUATE. AND SOME STATES HAVE NO SUCH LAWS AND LITTLE
PROSPECT THAT THEY WILL BE ENACTED.

Pensions

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

ANOTHER RIGHT BELONGING TO THE TEACHERS OF AMERICA TO

WHICH I AM COMMITTED WOULD BE FEDERAL STANDARDS AND

GUARANTEES IN THE PROVISION OF PORTABLE PENSION AND

RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

It IS WRONG AND UNFAIR FOR A TEACHER WHO HAS DEVOTED

his HIS LIFE TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION TO BE SHORTCHANGED IN

~~HIS~~ PENSION AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS SIMPLY BECAUSE ~~HE HAS~~ *the teacher*

has MOVED FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER DURING THE COURSE OF A

CAREER. PORTABLE PENSIONS ARE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT THAT IS

LATE IN COMING BUT BADLY NEEDED NOW.

~~A MAN OR WOMAN OF THE CALIBER AND COURAGE OF THE
LATE GREAT COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION JAMES ALLEN SHOULD
HEAD THIS NEW DEPARTMENT.~~

As part of any educational policy, a President must
enforce the law of the land and not subvert the rulings

of the Supreme Court in the area of civil and human rights.

~~We can't move backwards as we have been led to do by the
present administration.~~

But A President must not leave the task of achieving *Quality*
Education and to the courts and
inter-racial justice ~~to the courts and~~ ~~we must have~~

~~housing programs that permit people to enjoy home owner~~

~~ship in communities of their choice.~~

AND PART OF GUARANTEEING OPEN NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGHOUT AMERICA IS THE GOAL OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE INCOMES TO ALL PEOPLE SO THAT HOME OWNERSHIP AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ARE ATTAINABLE GOALS.

TO DO THIS, WE NEED JOBS. WE NEED A SOUND ECONOMY WITH ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH ARE FAIR.

WE ALL REALIZE THAT UNLESS THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN YOU TEACH HAVE DECENT INCOMES, THEIR EDUCATION IS BOUND TO SUFFER. AND THEIR PARENTS NEED JOBS.

I AM COMMITTED TO SEEING THAT THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO A JOB FOR EVERY AMERICAN CAPABLE OF WORKING.

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AND WHILE I AM ON THE SUBJECT OF JOBS, I WANT TO POINT OUT THE TRAGEDY WHICH IS NOW OCCURRING BECAUSE IN THE MIDST OF A SERIOUS CRISIS IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION THERE ARE NEARLY 20,000 EXPERIENCED TEACHERS WITHOUT WORK AND NEARLY 320,000 NEW TEACHERS WITHOUT JOBS. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, BY 1976 THERE WILL BE A SURPLUS OF 600,000 TEACHERS. IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THIS NATION WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SKILLED AND TALENTED TEACHERS IDLE BECAUSE WE LACK THE FUNDS TO HIRE THEM. THIS IS WHERE I HOPE THE ONE-THIRD FEDERAL FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION WILL CLOSE THE ALARMING GAP BETWEEN SKILLED TEACHERS AND CHILDREN IN NEED OF BETTER EDUCATIONS.

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JUSTICE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR YOURSELVES DEMANDS
THAT YOU AS TEACHERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AMERICAN
POLITICAL PROCESS.

ALL OF YOU MUST LIFT YOUR SIGHTS BEYOND THE SCHOOL
BOARD AND LEGISLATURE.

THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE FOR THE KIND OF NEW EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES I HAVE OUTLINED TODAY LIES WITH THE CONGRESS AND
THE PRESIDENCY.

-- FUNDS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN URBAN AND RURAL AMERICA.

-- ~~A~~ *an expanding economy - with a*
guarantee of a job.

-- THE GUARANTEE OF EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

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-- THE FOOD TO THWART THE HUNGER OF AMERICAN CHILDREN.

-- AND THE COMMITMENT TO CHANGE THE WAYS OF THE PAST

AND TURN TOWARD NEW DIRECTIONS IN EDUCATION AND TEACHERS'

RIGHTS DEPENDS UPON THE PERSON WHO SITS IN THE WHITE HOUSE

AND THE MEN AND THE WOMEN WHO SERVE IN THE CONGRESS.

I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THIS AS WE EMBARK ON THE

SERIOUS BUSINESS OF AN ELECTION YEAR. THIS IS THE TIME WHEN

AMERICA'S POLICIES FOR THE COMING DECADE WILL BE DETERMINED.

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN TEACHERS MUST SPEAK OUT FOR THE

FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN.

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