

REMARKS OF SENATOR DOLE
THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND
SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1983
2:00 P.M.

- IT IS A PLEASURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND. I UNDERSTAND THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE WILL EVALUATE 1984 FEDERAL BUDGET POLICIES AFFECTING CHILDREN AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS WHICH WERE MADE IN THE 97TH CONGRESS. YOU WILL BE BUSY--SINCE CONGRESS SURELY WAS.
- BEFORE GIVING A VERY BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET PROPOSALS AFFECTING CHILDREN WHICH COME UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT THESE PROGRAMS HAVE SUPPORTERS--INDEED, EVEN "FOUNDING FATHERS" ON THE COMMITTEE. WE APPRECIATE THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAMS AND RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO PROTECT THOSE UNABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. ON THE COMMITTEE, WE WILL BE GUIDED BY POLICY AS WELL AS BUDGET CONSIDERATION.

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

- AS YOU KNOW, CONGRESS MADE A LARGE NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THE AFDC PROGRAM IN THE OMNIBUS BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1981.

- THOSE PROVISIONS DEFINE AND LIMIT AMOUNTS OF EARNINGS THAT CAN BE "DISREGARDED" IN DETERMINING BENEFITS. THEY ALSO AUTHORIZE STATES TO DEVELOP NEW EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS FOR AFDC RECIPIENTS. STATE OPTIONS WERE THUS ENLARGED AND I UNDERSTAND THAT AN ENCOURAGING NUMBER OF STATES HAVE UTILIZED A VARIETY OF THE WORK PROGRAM OPTIONS.
- THE 1981 AMENDMENTS ALSO TIGHTENED ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS. I BELIEVE THESE CHANGES WERE IMPORTANT IN LIGHT OF THE NEED TO TARGET SCARCE RESOURCES TO THOSE MOST IN NEED. EARLY REPORTS FROM THE STATES AND THE OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE INDICATE THAT THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES RETURNING TO THE ROLLS ARE MUCH SMALLER THAN HAD BEEN PREDICTED.
- THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES SAVINGS TO THE AFDC PROGRAMS AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGES AT SOME \$573 MILLION FOR FY 82.
- LITTLE ACTION WAS TAKEN BY CONGRESS ON ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS FOR AFDC CHANGES IN 1982. THE PROVISIONS OF THE TAX EQUITY AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1982 DEALING WITH AFDC WERE RELATIVELY MINOR AND CBO ESTIMATES SAVINGS AT ABOUT \$85 MILLION. I BELIEVE THIS HAS GIVEN THE STATES AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPLEMENT THE 1981 CHANGES AND HAS GIVEN CONGRESS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE THE REFORMS AND

DETERMINE THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION ON ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS.

- THE ADMINISTRATION HAS DEVELOPED AFDC PROPOSALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1984 WHICH ARE ESTIMATED TO SAVE AROUND \$700 MILLION. THESE PROPOSALS WILL PROBABLY LOOK FAMILIAR--MANY WERE INCLUDED IN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET AND WERE PASSED BY THE SENATE AS PART OF TEFRA.
- THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL CAREFULLY REVIEW ALL PROPOSALS-- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF THE PROGRAM'S BENEFICIARIES AND THE OVERRIDING CONCERN WE SHARE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN.
- HOWEVER, I HAVE ALWAYS ARGUED THAT NO PROGRAM IS IMMUNE FROM SCRUTINY AT A TIME OF BUDGET CRISIS. NO FEDERAL PROGRAM IS ABSENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE FAILINGS OR OTHER EXCESSES. I URGE YOU TO KEEP THAT IN MIND AS WELL.

CHILD WELFARE/ADOPTION ASSISTANCE/FOSTER CARE
(TITLE IVB & E)

- AS YOU KNOW, THE ADMINISTRATION TWICE PROPOSED A BLOCK GRANT FOR THE CHILD WELFARE, FOSTER CARE, AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IN 1981, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DESIGNED, AND THE FULL SENATE ADOPTED, A REVISED BLOCK GRANT INCLUDING PROTECTIONS WHICH MIRRORED THE REQUIREMENTS OF P.L. 96-272, THE CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1980.

- IT PROBABLY CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE HERE TODAY THAT THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE DID NOT APPROVE THE BLOCK GRANT. THE CDF, THE JUNIOR LEAGUE, AND OTHERS WERE MOST EFFECTIVE IN DEFEATING THE BLOCK GRANT. IN 1982, THE BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL, EVEN THOUGH MODIFIED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, DID NOT FIND FAVOR WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.
- THIS YEAR, WE HAVE BEEN SENT A NEW PLAN FOR THE TITLE IVB AND E PROGRAMS. A CAP HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR THE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM. A CONSOLIDATION OF CHILD WELFARE TRAINING AND SERVICES FUNDING IS ALSO PROPOSED. NO CHANGE IN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR THE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS ANTICIPATED AND THAT ENTITLEMENT AMOUNT IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT ABOUT \$5 MILLION.
- IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY JUST WHAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE. THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT FOR P.L. 96-272 AND A BROAD RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE STATES WITH SUFFICIENT TIME TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW'S PROVISIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT REGULATIONS WERE SLOW IN DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION. I DO, HOWEVER, WANT TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN THAT WE MUST EXAMINE ALL THE BUDGET PROPOSALS CAREFULLY IN LIGHT OF THE SERIOUS FEDERAL DEFICITS WE FACE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

TITLE XX-SOCIAL SERVICES

- WITH REGARD TO THE TITLE XX BLOCK GRANT, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED FUNDING AT THE AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF \$250 MILLION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1984. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO PROPOSES TO MERGE THE \$342 MILLION COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT. NO INCREASE IN TITLE XX FUNDING IS PROPOSED. THE CSA BLOCK GRANT IS IN ANOTHER COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION--WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE ON THAT ONE.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT (CSE)

- IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM DESERVES MORE ATTENTION THAN IT PRESENTLY GETS. SURELY, REQUIRING ABSENT PARENTS TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN IS PREFERABLE TO FEDERAL OR STATE SUPPORT.
- I HOPE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS FOR MANDATING STATE CHANGES IN THE AREA OF CHILD SUPPORT WILL BE APPROVED. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO STUDY THE PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE THE FINANCING OF THE CSE PROGRAM--WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN YOUR VIEWS.

INCREASES IN AND MODIFICATION OF CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT

- IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY TAX ACT, CONGRESS ENHANCED THE WORK INCENTIVES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN BY INCREASING THE

MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF EMPLOYMENT-RELATED EXPENDITURES ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHILD CARE CREDIT AND BY INCREASING THE RATE OF THE CHILD CARE CREDIT. IN ADDITION, THE ACT RELAXES THE RESTRICTIONS ON CLAIMING THE CREDIT FOR DEPENDENT CARE SERVICES PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF THE HOME.

- IN THE CASE OF TWO-EARNER MARRIED COUPLES WITH CHILDREN, THIS PROVISION, ALONG WITH THE NEW DEDUCTION FOR TWO-EARNER MARRIED COUPLES, WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL TAX REDUCTIONS AT THE MIDDLE AND LOW-INCOME LEVELS.
- THE ACT ALSO PROVIDES INCENTIVES FOR EMPLOYERS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN PROVIDING CHILD CARE FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES BY EXCLUDING FROM INCOME AND PAYROLL TAXES CERTAIN EMPLOYER PAYMENTS FOR DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- SINCE NO TAX FORMS FOR CREDITS, DEDUCTIONS OR REFUNDS OTHER THAN THE INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME SCHEDULES CAN BE ATTACHED TO THE SHORT TAX RETURN, FORM 1040A, TAXPAYERS WHO FILE THEIR TAXES ON FORM 1040A CANNOT CLAIM THE CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE EXPENSES CREDIT. FOR SOME TIME, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE IRS AND THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT ON ALLOWING THE DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THE SHORT TAX RETURN FORM.

- IF THE NEW SHORTER TAX RETURN FORM, FORM 1040-EZ, IS SUCCESSFUL THIS YEAR, THE IRS WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ALLOWING SOME ATTACHMENTS TO THE FORM 1040A. IF THE 1040-EZ IS SUCCESSFUL, APPROXIMATELY 15-20 MILLION TAXPAYERS WHO WOULD HAVE USED FORM 1040A WILL BE USING FORM 1040-EZ. THIS SHOULD ALLOW THE IRS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN PERMITTING ATTACHMENTS TO THE 1040A.

MEDICAID

- FOR THE FY 1984 BUDGET, MEDICAID DOES NOT APPEAR TO OFFER MANY MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR COST SAVINGS, BUT WE CAN DO SOMETHING. WE CERTAINLY INTEND TO CONTINUE PROVIDING THE STATES WITH THE FLEXIBILITY NECESSARY TO ALLOW THEM TO IMPROVE PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY.
- ACCESS TO CARE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR CONCERN NO MATTER WHAT FORM OF INCREASED FLEXIBILITY OR OTHER CHANGES ARE PROPOSED FOR THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.
- LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, WE ALLOWED THE STATES TO IMPOSE NOMINAL COPAYMENTS ON VARIOUS SERVICES BUT PRECLUDED THE IMPOSITION OF COPAYMENTS ON CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 AND ON SERVICES RELATED TO PREGNANCY--INCLUDING PRENATAL, DELIVERY, AND POST PARTUM SERVICES. WE ALSO ALLOWED STATES TO EXEMPT ANY SERVICE PROVIDED TO PREGNANT WOMEN FROM COPAYMENTS. THESE SAME CONCERNS WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD TO THIS YEAR'S BUDGET CONSIDERATION.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- IN 1981 CONGRESS CREATED A NEW MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT IN THE BELIEF THAT THE CONSOLIDATION OF RELATED

CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS WOULD LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED APPROACH FOR PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. BY ELIMINATING THE COMPLEX FORMULAS FOR DETERMINING HOW MUCH WOULD BE SPENT ON NARROWLY FOCUSED ACTIVITIES THE STATES HAVE BEEN FREE TO DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC MCH ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED AND HOW TO CARRY OUT INDIVIDUAL STATE PROGRAMS.

- THE MCH BLOCK GRANT AMOUNTED TO A BUDGET REDUCTION AND A FREEZE IN FUNDING AUTHORIZATION AT \$373 MILLION IN FY 1982 AND FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER. THIS SET LEVEL OF RESOURCES WAS INDEED A RESPONSE TO GROWING BUDGET DEFICITS AND YET I AM MINDFUL OF THE GROWING NEED FOR MCH SERVICES CREATED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. THE CHILDRENS DEFENSE FUND HAS BEEN, AND I AM SURE WILL CONTINUE TO BE, OF ASSISTANCE TO US IN IDENTIFYING UNMET NEEDS.
- WHILE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT BOTH HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, I AM STILL AWARE OF THE BUDGET DEFICITS FACING US. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN THE INDICATORS OF UNMET NEEDS AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IT MAY BE THAT IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER AN ALLOWANCE FOR GROWTH THAT AT LEAST TAKES INTO ACCOUNT INCREASES IN THE COSTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES. FOR EXAMPLE, AN ADJUSTMENT

FOR INFLATION IN THE MCH GRANT WOULD INCREASE THAT GRANT BY ABOUT \$26 MILLION, IN FISCAL YEAR 1984.

- WE MUST REVISIT ALL THE BLOCK GRANTS--PARTICULARLY THOSE DEALING WITH POOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN--AND DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE PROVIDING THE SERVICES REQUIRED, AND WHETHER THE STATES ARE HOLDING UP THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

- THE MERGER OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION, MCH AND WIC, INTO A SINGLE BLOCK GRANT IS A PROPOSAL WHICH I HAVE OPPOSED IN THE PAST, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE. I DO, HOWEVER, REALIZE THAT IMPROVED COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO EXISTING PROGRAMS IS IMPORTANT AND MUST BE ACHIEVED: INVESTMENTS OF MONEY INTO HEALTH SERVICES AND FOOD FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE PROVEN TO BE A VERY WISE USE OF MONEY FOR BOTH THE STATES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. COORDINATED PROGRAMS INCREASE OUR CHANCES OF MEETING OUR GOALS.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- THE GOOD NEWS THIS FISCAL YEAR IS THAT THERE ARE NO PROPOSALS TO MAKE MAJOR BUDGET CUTS IN THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM OR THE WIC PROGRAM.
- HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROPOSED TO COMBINE FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST, SUMMER FEEDING AND CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAMS INTO A BLOCK GRANT FOR THE STATES TO ADMINISTER. FUNDING FOR THE BLOCK GRANT WOULD BE ABOUT \$560 MILLION, REPRESENTING A CUT OF ABOUT \$200 MILLION OR 27%.
 - A SIMILAR PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION LAST YEAR BUT GENERATED VERY LITTLE SUPPORT IN THE CONGRESS AND WAS NOT ACTED UPON. I EXPECT THIS WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.
- LAST SEPTEMBER, I INTRODUCED S. CON. RES. 121, CONCERNING THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS, WHICH STATED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD RETAIN PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE PROGRAMS -- I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD NUTRITIONAL INPUT FOR GROWING CHILDREN. THEY ARE A VERY VULNERABLE GROUP OF LITTLE INDIVIDUALS AND THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE THAT THEIR NEEDS ARE TAKEN CARE OF IS TO ASSURE SOME STANDARDIZATION OF BENEFITS THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY.
 - THIS RESOLUTION PASSED THE HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY, AND HAD OVER 50 COSPONSORS IN THE SENATE.
- TWO YEARS AGO, THIS SENATOR WORKED HARD TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF BIPARTISAN-SUPPORTED BUDGET CUTS IN THE AREA OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS BY RESTRUCTURING THE PRESIDENT'S ORIGINAL PROPOSALS. DURING THE BUDGET PROCESS IN 1981, ABOUT \$1.5 BILLION IN BUDGET SAVINGS PER YEAR WAS ACHIEVED, AMOUNTING TO A CUT OF ABOUT 30%.

- THIS SENATOR BELIEVES THAT IT IS TIME TO START SCRUTINIZING AREAS OF THE BUDGET THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY ESCAPED THE BUDGET AX -- AREAS THAT DO NOT PRIMARILY SERVE LOW-INCOME CHILDREN -- LIKE FEDERAL PENSIONS AND DEFENSE. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE ALREADY TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SOLVENCY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, WHICH IS ALSO A VERY EXPENSIVE PROGRAM. MOST OF THESE MAJOR ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS ARE WITHIN MY FINANCE COMMITTEE JURISDICTION.

COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION BILL

- MOST RECENTLY, ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE 98TH CONGRESS, I INTRODUCED S. 17, THE DOMESTIC COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION AND FOOD ASSISTANCE ACT, WHICH WILL MAKE SURPLUS COMMODITIES AVAILABLE TO FOOD BANKS, SOUP KITCHENS, CHURCHES, AND OTHER NONPROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE HELPING TO FEED THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HARD-HIT BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RECESSION -- PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO BE FALLING BETWEEN THE CRACKS OF THE REGULAR NUTRITION PROGRAM STRUCTURE.
- FOR THE FIRST TIME, THIS LEGISLATION WILL PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING TO HELP PAY FOR DISTRIBUTION, TRANSPORTATION AND PROCESSING COSTS OF BONUS COMMODITIES. SCHOOLS, WHO ALREADY PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMODITY PROGRAM WILL ALSO BENEFIT FROM THIS PROVISION.
- IN ADDITION, THIS BILL WOULD EXPAND THE CATEGORY OF BONUS COMMODITIES TO INCLUDE WHEAT, RICE, CORN, SOYBEANS, HONEY, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL CHEESE, BUTTER AND MILK. SECTION 32 COMMODITIES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THESE NEWLY ELIGIBLE GROUPS.

FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION

- WHILE I AM A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE CONCEPT OF FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION, I BELIEVE EVEN MORE DEEPLY THAT QUALITY OF EDUCATION DEPENDS UPON QUALITY OF LOCAL INVOLVEMENT.
- PROVIDING FEDERAL FUNDS TO HELP EDUCATE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE REPRESENTS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS WE CAN MAKE WITH OUR FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS.
- THE PRIMARY FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION IS TO GUARANTEE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL AMERICAN CHILDREN.
- EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS MEAN EXACTLY THAT -- POOR YOUNGSTERS OF FARM FAMILIES IN IMPOVERISHED RURAL AREAS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO GET A GOOD EDUCATION AS THE CHILDREN OF RICH PARENTS IN A WEALTHY SUBURBAN OR METROPOLITAN AREA.

YOUNGSTERS DISADVANTAGED BY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HANDICAPS SHOULD HAVE AS MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR LEARNING POTENTIAL AS IS PROVIDED TO THEIR MORE FORTUNATE SCHOOLMATES. BLACK CHILDREN AND BROWN CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE THE SAME EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AS WHITE CHILDREN, WHETHER THEY LIVE IN KANSAS OR IN MISSISSIPPI OR IN TEXAS OR CALIFORNIA.

- ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BECAME SO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION WAS THE FAILURE OF SOME STATES AND OF TOO MANY COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO CHILDREN DISADVANTAGED BY POVERTY, RACE, OR BY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITIES.
- NOW ECONOMIC FORCES AND POLITICAL TIDES ARE CAUSING OUR NATION TO REEXAMINE THE PROPER ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG AMERICANS.
- WE HAVE COME TOGETHER HERE TO DISCUSS THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I VALUE YOUR VIEWS AND ENCOURAGE YOUR EFFORTS TO EDUCATE ME AND MY COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACT THAT PROPOSALS BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS WILL HAVE ON YOU AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.
- THE PRESIDENT HAS INITIATED A GREAT REEVALUATION OF THE SHAPE AND COURSE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THERE IS PERHAPS NO ISSUE MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE THAN THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN, AND YET PERHAPS THERE IS MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE TO PROMOTE DEREGULATION OF THOSE AREAS OF FEDERAL EDUCATION POLICY WHICH HAVE BECOME OVERLY INTRUSIVE IN STATE AND LOCAL AUTONOMY.
- THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADMINISTERING OUR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS KNOW THAT IT IS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL WHERE THE MAGIC OF EDUCATION IS ACCOMPLISHED -- THROUGH TEACHING AND LEARNING.

- LEADERSHIP AT THE STATE LEVEL IS DIRECTED AT CREATING THE LARGER FRAMEWORK OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, WITH THE ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF ENFORCING EQUITY WITHIN THE STATE.
- THIS TASK IS MUCH LESS OPERATIONAL AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. VIRTUALLY ALL FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT SHOULD HAVE THE PURPOSE OF GUARANTEERING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS.
- THOSE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND ACCESS WERE THE BASIS OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965. CHAPTER I OF THAT LAW CONTINUES TO SPEAK TO THOSE GOALS TODAY, AS DOES P.L. 94-142, THE EDUCATION OF ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT.
- SUPPORT FOR THIS KIND OF FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION HAS BEEN BIPARTISAN IN NATURE -- ACTUALLY IT HAS BEEN NONPARTISAN.

SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT, SR. ONCE DESCRIBED THE FEDERAL ROLE THIS WAY:

"EDUCATION IS PRIMARILY A STATE FUNCTION, BUT IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, AS IN THE FIELDS OF HEALTH, RELIEF AND MEDICAL CARE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A SECONDARY OBLIGATION TO SEE THAT THERE IS A BASIC FLOOR UNDER THOSE ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR ALL ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES."

- FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INTERESTED, THERE HAS BEEN NO LESSENING OF THE FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION, IF WE ARE USING FUNDING AS A BAROMETER OF THIS EFFORT: EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 1982 TOTALLED \$14,737,246, AND THE

CONTINUING RESOLUTION FOR FY 1983, SETS THIS TOTAL FUNDING LEVEL AT \$15,097,527. THIS REPRESENTS AN ACTUAL INCREASE, WHILE OTHER AREAS OF THE BUDGET HAVE UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT CUTS.

SCIENCE AND MATH EDUCATION

- BACK IN 1957, THE SOVIET LAUNCH OF SPUTNIK INSPIRED A RENAISSANCE OF FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION. IN ITS AFTERMATH, CONGRESS PASSED THE NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT IN AN EFFORT TO OVERCOME OUR PERCEIVED SHORTAGE OF SKILLED SCIENTISTS AND MATHEMATICIANS.
THE DRIVING SPIRIT BEHIND THAT EFFORT WAS THE DESIRE TO SHARPEN THE SKILLS NEEDED TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IN OUTER SPACE, AS WELL AS ON EARTH.
- WHILE THERE ARE STRONG REASONS FOR STRENGTHENING OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE, WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT OUR PRIORITIES ARE BALANCED, AND THAT WE DO NOT LESSEN OUR FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION, SO THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND MORE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE.
- TODAY, AGAIN, THERE IS A GROWING CONCERN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS LAGGING FAR BEHIND IN SCIENTIFIC AND MATHEMATICAL SKILLS.
- EVERY STANDARDIZED TEST USED TO MEASURE SCIENCE AND MATH CAPABILITIES HAS SHOWN A STEADILY DECLINING LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS.
- IN A COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL STUDY, AMERICAN 13-YEAR-OLDS SCORED MORE POORLY ON A STANDARDIZED TEST THAN CHILDREN THE SAME AGE FROM ENGLAND, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, BELGIUM, SCOTLAND, AND THE NETHERLANDS.
- HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH MATH AND SCIENCE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED IN THE PAST DECADE.

- THE NUMBER OF MATH TEACHERS HAS DECLINED BY 77 PERCENT IN JUST TEN YEARS, AND THE NUMBER OF SCIENCE TEACHERS HAS DROPPED 65 PERCENT.
- 43 STATES HAVE A SHORTAGE OF MATH TEACHERS; 42 HAVE A SHORTAGE OF PHYSICS TEACHERS; 38 A SHORTAGE OF CHEMISTRY TEACHERS -- THIS SHORTAGE IS REACHING CRISIS PROPORTIONS.
- LOCAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS CANNOT COMPETE WITH THE SALARIES OF PRIVATE CORPORATIONS AND TOO MANY TALENTED TEACHERS ARE BEING ENTICED AWAY BY INDUSTRY.
- I HAVE A VERY DEEP CONCERN THAT, ULTIMATELY, NEGLECT OF SCIENCE AND MATH EDUCATION IS GOING TO WEAKEN AMERICA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND JEOPARDIZE OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, AS WELL AS OUR COUNTRY'S LONG-TERM ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT. OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE WORLD WILL BE UNDERMINED -- ALREADY WE ARE BUYING MUCH OF OUR HIGH TECHNOLOGY GOODS AND SERVICES FROM COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN.
- BECAUSE OF THE DECLINE IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THESE SPECIALIZED AREAS, WE COULD VERY WELL FIND OURSELVES LOSING A WHOLE GENERATION OF EXPERTS IN THESE FIELDS.
- IN THE 98TH CONGRESS, AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE AGENDA IN EDUCATION WILL BE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN OUR NATION'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE AREAS OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS. SEVERAL BILLS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED, AND I HAVE JOINED THIS EFFORT AS A COSPONSOR OF SENATOR DOMENICI'S "NATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION ACT OF 1983."

- IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS KIND OF LEGISLATION WILL HELP TO REVERSE THE DANGEROUS TREND THAT WEAKENS OUR COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF ITS FUTURE WITH HIGHLY QUALIFIED SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS.

- SENATOR DOMENICI'S PROPOSAL WILL:
 - ESTABLISH A MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO ARE PREPARING TO BECOME ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.
 - INITIATE A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD PROGRAM, WITH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CONDUCTING THE COMPETITION FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE BY OUR MOST CAPABLE TEACHERS.
 - AMEND THE EDUCATION CONSOLIDATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1981 TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

- ANOTHER IMPORTANT PART OF THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN THE 98TH CONGRESS WILL BE THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACT. AS WE ARE ALL WELL AWARE, JOB TRAINING TO CREATE SKILLED WORKERS IS AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY IN THIS TIME OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE WORK FORCE FOR YEARS, WHO REQUIRE RE-TRAINING.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- FOR YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE LOOKED TO CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT FOR ANSWERS TO THE NATION'S PROBLEMS. YET, UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS THAT, AS THE YEARS HAVE GONE BY, THE NUMBER OF NEW PROBLEMS HAVE OUTPACED THE SOLUTIONS. CONGRESS MAY EVEN HAVE HELPED TO CREATE SOME OF THESE NEW PROBLEMS, BECAUSE, ALL TOO OFTEN, IT MAY HAVE PROVIDED THE WRONG ANSWERS TO THOSE PROBLEMS IT ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO COME UP WITH THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS. IN MATTERS AFFECTING OUR COUNTRY'S ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, WE NEED TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU. IT DOES NOT MERELY SUFFICE TO HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS -- THERE NEEDS TO BE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS BEST, AND THOSE WHO WILL ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THEM.
- OUR NATION'S CHILDREN CAN DO LITTLE ABOUT THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY -- THEY ARE NEITHER VOTERS NOR ELECTED OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, THEIR NEEDS SEEM TO HAVE MULTIPLIED AS THE CHALLENGES FACING THEM HAVE GROWN MORE COMPLEX, AND MORE DEMANDS ARE MADE ON THEM AT AN EARLIER AGE. THE CHILDREN OF TODAY WILL BE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW, AND WE SHOULD ESTABLISH OUR NATIONAL PRIORITIES ACCORDINGLY.