

REMARKS OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
KANSAS FEDERATION OF THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
HAYS, KANSAS
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1968

*Bevoral [unclear]
Wife an O.T.*

*Mr. L...
L...
Dr. [unclear]
"W...
Jack [unclear]*

"FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD"

I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU ~~TODAY~~

Because
I SHARE YOUR CONCERN FOR ABOUT SEVEN MILLION CHILDREN WHO
ARE MENTALLY RETARDED OR GIFTED, OR WHO ARE PHYSICALLY, EMO-
TIONALLY OR SOCIALLY HANDICAPPED.

THE FACT THAT THIS CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE IS CONCRETE
EVIDENCE THIS COUNTRY HAS ADOPTED A PHILOSOPHY OF HELPING
THESE BOYS AND GIRLS REALIZE THEIR POTENTIALITIES.

AS PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS IN THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL
CHILDREN, YOU ARE LEADING THE WAY. YOU ARE DEMONSTRATING NOT
ONLY INTEREST BUT INVOLVEMENT IN EXTENDING ENCOURAGEMENT AND
OPPORTUNITY TO THESE YOUTH. IN ADDITION, YOU PLAY A MAJOR
ROLE IN BRINGING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE,
THE SCHOOLS, THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

- IMPETUS FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT-

IT IS ONLY IN RECENT YEARS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS
BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL
CHILDREN.

THESE SAME WORLD EVENTS WHICH PROFOUNDLY ALTERED THE
CONDITIONS OF EXCEPTIONALITY ALSO AMPLIFIED THE NEED FOR
FEDERAL SUPPORT.

IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE, SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES REDUCED THE CRIPPLING EFFECTS OF SOME DISEASES; SIMULTANEOUSLY, A LOWER INFANT MORTALITY RATE INCREASED A NUMBER OF OTHER DISABILITIES.

WORLD WAR II AND THE ADVENT OF SPUTNIK MEANT MORE AND MORE ATTENTION SHIFTED TO THE INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED.

THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION AND INCREASING URBANIZATION DEMANDED MORE EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON THE NEEDS OF THE EMOTIONALLY AND NEUROLOGICALLY DISTURBED.

- THE CHALLENGES TODAY -

SPECIAL EDUCATION HAS COME OF AGE, BUT ITS MATURITY LIES BEFORE US.

TODAY THREE FUNDAMENTAL OBSTACLES IMPEDE MORE RAPID PROGRESS:

-- FIRST, CLASSROOM SPACE AND DIAGNOSTIC FACILITIES ARE LACKING. EXPANDED ENROLLMENT HAS TAXED THE SPACE AND FINANCING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

-- SECOND, EVEN WHEN SPACE IS AVAILABLE, QUALIFIED TEACHERS TO CONDUCT THE CLASSES ARE HARD TO FIND. FOR EVERY PERSON PREPARED TO TEACH IN SPECIAL EDUCATION, FIVE ARE NEEDED.

-more-

-- THIRD, ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE EXCELLENT PROGRAMS
FOR TRAINING SPECIAL EDUCATORS, SUCH AS
THE ONE HERE AT FT. HAYS, MANY OF THE 74,000
TEACHERS ARE TRAINED IN SUMMER SCHOOL,
EXTENSION COURSES AND WORKSHOPS. STILL
OTHERS ARE UNTRAINED.

THE NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION IS READILY APPARENT. IF
SPECIAL EDUCATION IS TO SUCCEED, WE MUST EASE THE ALREADY
PRESSING DEMAND ON THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS JUST TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL
AND SERVICES FOR THE SO-CALLED NORMAL CHILDREN.

-PRIME LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY-

I BELIEVE WE ALL AGREE THE FOUNDATION AND THE CONTINUITY
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IS PRIMARILY A LOCAL, INDIVIDUAL
RESPONSIBILITY.

SHAPING AND IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMS AND TAILORING THEM
TO THE INDIVIDUAL CAN BEST BE HANDLED AT THE LOCAL AND STATE
LEVELS BY THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

THE FINAL AIM OF ALL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR EX-
CEPTIONAL CHILDREN IS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVE THE HELP
HE NEEDS AT THE TIME AND PLACE HE NEEDS IT.

-THE FEDERAL ROLE-

THE FEDERAL ROLE IS TO STIMULATE STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITY
...PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH...HELP TRAIN TEACHERS AND OTHER
PERSONNEL...AND ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING REGIONAL FACILITIES TO SERVE
SEVERAL STATES AT ONCE.

-more-

THE EIGHT YEARS OF THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION OFFERED THE FIRST BIG BOOST TO SPECIAL EDUCATION SINCE 1864.

IN 1953, THE CONGRESS CREATED THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE TO COORDINATE WELFARE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THREE YEARS LATER, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER VIGOROUSLY ENDORSED DISTRIBUTION OF FREE SALK POLIO VACCINE TO SCHOOL CHILDREN AND REVITALIZED VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR THE DISABLED.

THE YEARS -- 1956 TO 1960 -- SAW MATCHING GRANTS TO THE STATES TO HELP IMPROVE STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS TO TEST POTENTIAL ABILITIES OF STUDENTS, EXPANSION OF YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNSELING AND TEACHER TRAINING AND SO ON.

-VOCABULARY OF THE 60's-

THE FOUNDATION WAS LAID.

ON CAME THE 60'S. IN THIS DECADE, THE VOCABULARY MIRRORS THE CHALLENGE OF THE TIMES -- GRANTS...RESEARCH...DIAGNOSTIC TEACHING...NATIONAL TESTING...TITLES I, III, V AND VI.

IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, WE HAVE WITNESSED ENACTMENT OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT, WHICH ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO AID CHILDREN OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, WAS AMENDED IN 1965, 66 AND 67 TO SPECIFICALLY EXPAND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

I WOULD BE LESS THAN CANDID IF I FAILED TO SAY I DID NOT SUPPORT THESE PROPOSALS. I DID THEN, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THAT KIND OF FEDERAL AID WHICH STYMIES THE EDUCATIONAL DECISION-MAKING OF THE STATES AND THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS. AND I WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THAT KIND OF FEDERAL AID WHICH SNARLS THE SCHOOLS IN ENDLESS RED TAPE AND DELAY.

HOWEVER, IN MY JUDGMENT, IT IS IN THE 1966 AMENDMENT -- A NEW TITLE VI -- IN WHICH WE CAN HOPE FOR THE MOST PROGRESS IN YEARS TO COME. TITLE VI AUTHORIZES GRANTS TO THE STATES TO HELP INITIATE AND IMPROVE LOCAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, THE HANDICAPPED CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE HELP HE NEEDS IN HIS OWN COMMUNITY.

LAST YEAR I SUPPORTED THE SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE REPORT ON FURTHER AMENDMENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION. BRIEFLY, THESE AMENDMENTS, WHICH WERE SIGNED INTO LAW, ENCOURAGE MORE RESEARCH, PERSONNEL TRAINING, REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTERS AND EXPANDED USE OF EDUCATIONAL MEDIA.

-CONCLUSION-

IF MY FEW MINUTES WITH YOU HERE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING ELSE, I HOPE I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSURE YOU WE, IN THE CONGRESS, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

IN SPECIAL EDUCATION, MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

-more-

THERE IS STILL AN UNEVENNESS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR
TALENT DEVELOPMENT IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US IS TO ACCELERATE OUR
PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AND DEVELOP NEW ONES SO THAT THE
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN -- NO MATTER THE
ABILITY OR DISABILITY -- CAN BE MET.

BUT IN OUR RENEWED URGENCY, WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR
PURPOSE IS STILL INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY: IDENTIFYING
THE CHILD WHO NEEDS SPECIAL SERVICES, REFERRING HIM
FOR SPECIAL HELP AND THEN PROVIDING THE UNIQUE EDUCATION
HE NEEDS.

END

Mr. Victor
eddy

(Don Walker)

Dr. Harry G. ...

Mr. F. ...
Mrs. ...

I have a personal interest in handicapped children in the United States.

- * myself
- * my wife

THE CHALLENGE TO ALL OF US IS TO SECURE FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO ALL CHILDREN -- NO MATTER THE ABILITY OR DISABILITY -- CAN BE MET.

BUT IN OUR SEARCH FOR BETTER METHODS, WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR PURPOSE IS STILL INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY: IDENTIFYING THE CHILD WHO NEEDS SPECIAL SERVICES, RECOGNIZING HIM FOR SPECIAL HELP AND THEN PROVIDING THE UNIQUE EDUCATION HE NEEDS.