

REMARKS OF

HONORABLE BOB DOLE

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
CHANUTE, KANSAS

9:00 A.M., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1970

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING WITH YOU TODAY.

MANY CHANGES WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN EDUCATION IN THE SEVENTIES,
AND THEY CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT YOUR COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE.

- EDUCATIONAL REFORM -

SINCE 1960, FEDERAL OUTLAYS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION HAVE INCREASED MORE THAN EIGHTFOLD. THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT
IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS NOW ALMOST FIVE TIMES WHAT IT WAS IN 1960.
BUT JUDGED BY THE ONE MEASURE THAT REALLY COUNTS -- WHAT STUDENTS
LEARN -- THE RESULTS HAVE TOO OFTEN BEEN DISAPPOINTING.

THE INFUSION OF MONEY AND NEW IDEAS SOUNDED GOOD AND WAS
DONE IN THE NAME OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM. BUT IT WAS NOT EDUCATIONAL
REFORM. UNDER ALL THE GLITTER WAS THE SAME PATCHWORK EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM. AFTER A DECADE OF INTENSIVE FEDERAL EFFORT, PRESIDENT
NIXON FOUND HIMSELF COMPELLED TO OPEN HIS 1970 MESSAGE ON EDUCATION
WITH A SINGLE, STARK SENTENCE: "AMERICAN EDUCATION IS IN URGENT
NEED OF REFORM".

HOWEVER, IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE PAST YEARS. EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN GAINED, AND WHILE IT IS APPARENT THAT EDUCATION NEEDS MONEY, EDUCATIONAL REFORM IS HARD WORK AND NOT SIMPLY A GOLDEN SHOWER OF TAX DOLLARS. WITHOUT A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE SOLVED AND A RATIONAL PLAN FOR PUTTING SOLUTIONS INTO EFFECT, MONEY COULD CONTINUE TO BE SPENT WITH NO MORE RESULTS THAN IN THE 1960'S.

- APPROACH TO DOMESTIC PROBLEMS -

BUT WHILE THE PROBLEMS APPEAR GREAT, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S BASIC APPROACH TO DOMESTIC POLICY PROVIDES GROUNDS FOR HOPE. THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCEPT OF GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IS EMBODIED IN FIVE THEMES OR CENTRAL IDEAS.

THE FIVE POINTS ARE THESE:

FIRST, WE MUST STRENGTHEN FEDERALISM -- IMPROVING THE CAPACITY OF OUR GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM AT EVERY LEVEL WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REINFORCING THE ESSENTIAL POLITICAL VALUES ON WHICH IT IS BASED.

SECOND, WE MUST REFORM OUR MAJOR PROGRAM SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE NEW INITIATIVES AND AVOID THE COMPARTMENTALIZED APPROACHES OF THE PAST.

THIRD, WE MUST INNOVATE, DEVELOPING NEW TECHNIQUES FOR SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND DISSEMINATING THESE TECHNIQUES TO STATES, LOCALITIES, AND APPROPRIATE PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.

FOURTH, WE MUST IMPROVE OUR MANAGEMENT, RECOGNIZING FULLY THAT HOW WE TRY TO DO SOMETHING IS NEARLY AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO.

FINALLY, FIFTH, WE MUST SIGNIFICANTLY INVOLVE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PUBLIC PROBLEM-SOLVING.

THE FIVE POINTS SEEM TO ME TO CONSTITUTE A VERY CLEAR ROADMAP OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO THE ENTIRE ARENA OF DOMESTIC POLICY. THESE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE, I FEEL, PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE TO THE SOLUTION OF EDUCATION'S PROBLEMS AND ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A NEW FEDERALISM, PROGRAM REFORM, INNOVATION, MANAGEMENT AND PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT.

- STRENGTHENED FEDERALISM -

PRESIDENT NIXON SAID IN HIS EDUCATION MESSAGE THAT A "NEW REALITY IN AMERICAN EDUCATION CAN MARK THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA OF REFORM AND PROGRESS FOR THOSE WHO TEACH AND THOSE WHO LEARN". PART OF THAT REALITY IS A NEW FEDERALISM.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS IN AMERICA HAVE ALL TOO OFTEN AMOUNTED TO A SERIES OF GRACELESS FEUDS WITH ONE LEVEL OF AUTHORITY FREQUENTLY REGARDING ANOTHER WITH PARANOID SUSPICION AND HOSTILITY. FORTUNATELY, TEMPERS HAVE IMPROVED AS WE HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR STRONG AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT AT EVERY LEVEL. WASHINGTON MAY HAVE BLUNDERED INTO STATE AND LOCAL PRESERVES IN THE PAST. BUT IT IS THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S INTENT THAT POWER, IN EDUCATION AS IN ALL DOMESTIC CONCERNS, BE SHARED EFFECTIVELY AMONG COOPERATING GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES.

THE PRESIDENT IS SAYING, IN EFFECT, THAT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO DO WHAT THEY CAN DO BEST. A KEY ELEMENT OF THIS POLICY IS DECENTRALIZATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, IS SHIFTING PERSONNEL AND PROGRAM AUTHORITY FROM WASHINGTON TO REGIONAL OFFICES. THE MOVE IS DESIGNED TO PLACE RESPONSIVE AUTHORITY WITHIN IMMEDIATE REACH OF COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS. WASHINGTON, FOR MOST OF THEM, IS SIMPLY TOO FAR AWAY.

THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE WITH ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY PROGRAMS WHERE THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION DEALS DIRECTLY WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED BY WASHINGTON.

- REFORMING MAJOR PROGRAM SYSTEMS -

THE SECOND ADMINISTRATION REFORM STRATEGY IS PROGRAM SYSTEM OVERHAUL, A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE POINT IN EDUCATION. AS THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT IN THE EDUCATION MESSAGE, "...FEDERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE LARGELY FRAGMENTED AND DISJOINTED, AND TOO OFTEN ADMINISTERED IN A WAY THAT FRUSTRATES LOCAL AND PRIVATE EFFORTS."

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION PROGRAM REFORM EFFORT IS TITLE I OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT -- THE LARGEST PROGRAM AND ONE DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE BECAUSE OF THE NEWNESS AND COMPLEXITY OF COMPENSATORY EDUCATION.

STUDIES OF TITLE I PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR IMMEDIATE AND SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROGRAM AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS. OTHER PROGRAMS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE SAME PROCESS OF EVALUATION.

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- INNOVATION -

A THIRD THEME WHICH CHARACTERIZES THIS ADMINISTRATION'S DOMESTIC PROGRAM IS INNOVATION -- DEVELOPING NEW TECHNIQUES AND DISSEMINATING THEM TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEED TO KNOW.

OUR INVESTMENT AS A NATION IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH IS PITIFULLY SMALL -- LESS THAN A HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET, COMPARED WITH FIVE PERCENT IN HEALTH AND TEN PERCENT IN DEFENSE. TEN PERCENT IS THE FIGURE GENERALLY USED IN BUSINESS AS THE MINIMUM A FIRM CAN EXPECT TO SPEND ON RESEARCH IF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPECTS IT TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE.

TWO ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS WHICH PROMISE TO GREATLY STRENGTHEN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ARE THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

IF WE ARE TO EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN, WE FIRST MUST EDUCATE OURSELVES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONGRESS HAS NOT FOUND TIME TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THESE IMPORTANT AND FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS, AND AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS HEARINGS EARLY NEXT YEAR.

- MANAGEMENT REFORMS -

A FOURTH ADMINISTRATION DOMESTIC POLICY INITIATIVE WITH SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR EDUCATION IS EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED MANAGEMENT. GOVERNMENT IS JUST COMING TO UNDERSTAND HOW WASTEFUL THE UNSYSTEMATIC APPROACH CAN BE. GOALS MUST BE FORMULATED IN AN ORDERLY WAY. THERE MUST BE AN EVALUATION OF THE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS, AN APPRAISAL OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESENT PROGRAMS, AND AN ESTIMATE OF THE COSTS AND STRATEGIES OF MEETING THE GOALS.

SCHOOL FINANCE IS ONE OF THE SEVERE PROBLEMS FACING EDUCATION. FORMER H.E.W. SECRETARY ROBERT FINCH DESCRIBED IT AS THE "YOUNGSTOWN PHENOMEN" -- THE FEAR OF SCHOOL PEOPLE AND BOARD MEMBERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT THERE WILL BE A COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF THEIR SCHOOLS FOR LACK OF FUNDS.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FINANCE HAS SUBSTANTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE REFORM OF THE ANTIQUATED AND PATENTLY INADEQUATE METHODS OF PAYING FOR EDUCATION THAT HAVE CREATED THIS SITUATION. THE COMMISSION WILL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON MATTERS SUCH AS THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE ADEQUACY OF THE EXISTING TAX BASE, INEQUITIES AND DISPARITIES IN EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES BETWEEN STATES AND BETWEEN URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL SYSTEMS, AND PROPOSALS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO REVISE THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF THEIR OWN SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

- INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR -

THE FIFTH MAJOR THEME OF THE DOMESTIC POLICY OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND SURELY THE NATION CANNOT SOLVE ANY OF ITS SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT HELP FROM THIS QUARTER. INDUSTRY, THE UNIVERSITIES, THE PROFESSIONS, AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ARE GREAT RESERVOIRS OF

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TALENT, ENERGY, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH. THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUST BOTH SEEK PRIVATE HELP AND PUT THEMSELVES AT THE DISPOSAL OF PRIVATE INTERESTS IN THE SERVICE OF THE SHARED GOALS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE WIDER USE OF PRIVATE CREDIT TO ASSURE STUDENTS LOANS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND HAS PROPOSED A NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN ASSOCIATION TO ENABLE LENDERS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE TO STUDENT BORROWERS.

THE RIGHT TO READ, A MAJOR OFFICE OF EDUCATION EFFORT, WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR. READING ACHIEVEMENT OBVIOUSLY WILL COME FROM IMPROVED READING EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOLS. BUT COMPLETE SUCCESS REQUIRES AN UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF TOTAL COMMUNITY COOPERATION -- FROM ALL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, PARTICULARLY VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL WORK WITH DEFICIENT YOUNG READERS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS.

THE POLICY INITIATIVES OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING ARE SOUND. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN AS TO HOW ENTHUSIASTICALLY THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY WILL RESPOND TO THESE INITIATIVES, AND THE STRENGTH OF LEADERSHIP THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PROVIDE TOWARD PUTTING THESE GUIDELINES INTO EFFECT RAPIDLY AND CONCLUSIVELY. FOR WITHOUT STRONG LEADERSHIP, CERTAINLY NONE OF THESE EFFORTS **WILL** SUCCEED.

BUT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CANNOT DO THE JOB ALONE. THE CONGRESS MUST FACE UP TO THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATION IN THE 1970'S. TO OBTAIN EDUCATIONAL REFORM, WE MUST BE WILLING TO CONSIDER NEW APPROACHES RATHER THAN THE WELL-WORN RUN CARVED BY YEARS OF BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA AND SPECIAL PLEADING.

AS THE PRESIDENT DECLARED IN MARCH:

"BY DEMANDING EDUCATIONAL REFORM NOW, WE CAN GAIN THE UNDERSTANDING WE NEED TO HELP EVERY STUDENT REACH NEW LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT; ONLY BY CHALLENGING CONVENTIONAL WISDOM CAN WE AS A NATION GAIN THE WISDOM WE NEED TO EDUCATE OUR YOUNG IN THE DECADE OF THE SEVENTIES."

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THIS NATION, FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A HARD AND BITTER STRUGGLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. I AM NOT HERE TODAY TO ASSESS GUILT OR LEVY BLAME FOR THIS WAR. I BELIEVE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED MORE EFFECTIVELY AND WITH LESS COST IN AMERICAN LIVES -- BUT IT IS A FRUITLESS AND FUTILE GAME TO FIGHT A WAR FROM HINDSIGHT, AND I AM NOT HERE TO DO THAT EITHER.

THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR HAS BEEN CHANGED SINCE RICHARD NIXON BECAME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF OUR ARMED FORCES. THE STRATEGY HAS BEEN ALTERED. THE FORCES OF FREE VIETNAM HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY US, THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY US -- BUT THEY HAVE TO DO THE JOB THEMSELVES. AND THEY ARE DOING IT.

AS THEIR STRENGTH INCREASES, THE PRESIDENT IS PULLING OUR FORCES OUT. WE HAVE MORE THAN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TROOPS THERE TO VALIDATE AND SUSTAIN ANY DIPLOMATIC EFFORT WE MAY MAKE, ANY NEGOTIATING POSITION WE MAY CHOOSE TO TAKE, OR ANY INITIATIVE THAT THE PRESIDENT FEELS MAY BRING A MORE RAPID AND SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THAT CONFLICT. OUR STRENGTH THERE IS NOT BEING ERODED BY THESE CAREFULLY PHASED WITHDRAWALS, NOR WILL IT EVER BE CUT ARBITRARILY OR CAPRICIOUSLY. THE FORCE WE NEED, WE HAVE THERE. BUT WE HAVE BEGUN TO BRING AMERICANS HOME -- AND IN LARGE NUMBERS.

- RETURNING HEROES -

UNFORTUNATELY, THESE MEN ARE NOT ALL RETURNING IN THE SAME CONDITION AS WHEN THEY LEFT AMERICA. THE DEAD, OF COURSE, WE KNOW ABOUT. WE CAN DO NO MORE THAN HONOR THEM, AND SEEK TO BE WORTHY OF THEIR SACRIFICE. AND, CERTAINLY, WE CAN DO NO LESS.

BUT WE ARE ALSO BRINGING HOME YOUNG MEN THAT MANY PEOPLE IN AMERICA DO NOT KNOW ABOUT AND NEVER HEAR ABOUT. THESE ARE THE CRIPPLED, THE HANDICAPPED, THE MAIMED -- THE MEN WHO HAVE LOST LIMBS, OTHERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR MINDS.

THERE ARE NO GOOD WARS -- EXCEPT THE ONES THAT DO NOT HAPPEN,
THE ONES THAT ARE PREVENTED -- BUT CERTAINLY SOME WARS ARE WORSE
THAN OTHERS. THE WAR IN VIETNAM IS ONE OF THE WORST.

THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG ARE GOOD SOLDIERS,
RUTHLESS AND ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT HUMANITY OR MERCY. THEY KNOW THAT
IT IS MORE USEFUL TO WOUND A MAN THAN TO KILL HIM, BECAUSE THE
WOUNDED REQUIRE CARE. AND THIS CARE MAY TAKE ONE OR TWO MORE MEN
OUT OF ACTION TO PROVIDE IT. THEY KNOW THAT THE SOUND OF THE
WOUNDED IN PAIN IS DEMORALIZING, WHILE THE SILENCE OF THE DEAD ONLY
STRENGTHENS THE RESOLVE OF THE AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN.

FOR THESE REASONS, AND BECAUSE OF THE TERRAIN, AND BECAUSE
IT IS A VERY PERSONAL, MAN-TO-MAN, SCATTERED SORT OF WAR, THE
VIET CONG LAY GREAT EMPHASIS ON ANTI-PERSONNEL WEAPONS -- PARTICULARLY
MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS.

THIS IS A DIFFERENT SORT OF WAR, TOO, IN THAT OUR MEN RECEIVE BETTER CARE, MORE QUICKLY THAN THEY HAVE IN ANY PREVIOUS WAR IN WHICH AMERICANS HAVE EVER FOUGHT. MEN WHO WOULD HAVE DIED OF THEIR WOUNDS BEFORE RECEIVING MEDICAL ATTENTION IN KOREA ARE IN FIELD HOSPITALS OR ABOUT HOSPITAL SHIPS IN VIETNAM, FREQUENTLY WITHIN MINUTES OF BEING HIT. AND THEY RECEIVE THE FINEST MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CARE.

NOW, THE CONFLUENCE OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES -- HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ANTI-PERSONNEL ACTIONS AND RAPID AND EFFECTIVE MEDICAL CARE -- IS PRODUCING A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED VETERANS RETURNING TO THIS COUNTRY. AND THOSE MEN HAVE TO BE ASSIMILATED BACK INTO OUR SOCIETY. WE OWE THEM THAT.

I AM NOT SAYING WE OWE THEM A LIVING, NO. BUT WE DO OWE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN A LIVING. WE OWE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FULLY IN THE SOCIETY WE SENT THEM TO DEFEND.

THEY ARE COMING HOME. THEY ARE IN HOSPITALS AND REHABILITATION CENTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, AND THEY ARE SWELLING THE RANKS OF THE HANDICAPPED IN AMERICA. THEY HAVE TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THOSE HOSPITALS AND THOSE CENTERS AND PUT INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LIFE. WE KNOW THAT. WE KNOW THERE IS A JOB TO BE DONE. WE KNOW THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT. OTHERWISE WE HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE JOB WILL BE DONE.

- AMERICA'S CHALLENGE -

EVEN NOW IN AMERICA, WE HAVE HANDICAPPED MEN AND WOMEN -- WE HAVE CHILDREN AFFLICTED BY CRIPPLING DISEASES AND BY BIRTH DEFECTS -- AND THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT ALL RECEIVING THE CARE THEY NEED AND SHOULD HAVE. I THINK WE CAN DO BETTER.

IN THE LIGHT OF WORLD HISTORY, AND IN THE EYES OF OTHER NATIONS, AMERICA IS A STRANGE PLACE PEOPLED BY A STRANGE BREED OF MEN AND WOMEN. FOR WE ARE A NATION OF BELIEVERS -- BELIEVERS IN OUR OWN ABILITY TO DO THE THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE.

IT WAS THIS WILL AND THIS CAPACITY FOR BELIEF THAT MADE AN AMERICAN THE FIRST MAN ON THE MOON.

IT WAS THIS WILL AND THIS CAPACITY FOR BELIEF WHICH PROMPTED DE TOQUEVILLE TO WRITE OF THE AMERICAN THAT FOR HIM "NO NATIONAL BOUNDARY SEEMS TO BE SET TO THE EFFORTS OF MAN; AND IN HIS EYES WHAT IS NOT YET IS ONLY WHAT HE HAS NOT YET ATTEMPTED TO DO."

IT IS THIS WILL AND THIS CAPACITY FOR BELIEF THAT MAKES DOCTORS AND NURSES, SPECIAL EDUCATORS AND THERAPISTS, RESEARCH ANALYSTS AND FUND RAISERS, AND JUST ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN WHO CARE -- IT IS THIS WILL THAT MAKES THEM DECIDE THAT A CRIPPLED CHILD SHALL WALK, THAT A PARALYZED ADULT SHALL CONTRIBUTE AND BE HAPPY, THAT EVERY BROKEN BROTHER OF OURS SHALL BE HEALED OR REHABILITATED, AND THAT ALL WILL HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION.

BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE WHO CARE ENOUGH TO HELP. WITH THE WAR THE NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED IS GROWING FASTER THAN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAN AND WILL HELP THE HANDICAPPED. THIS IS A BAD SITUATION.

STATISTICS INDICATE THAT ALMOST 42 MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY SUFFER FROM DISABLING CONDITIONS. WE CANNOT AFFORD THIS. AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE THE TALENT AND ENERGY AND ABILITY OF BETTER THAN 20 PERCENT OF HER POPULATION. THESE PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE CARE THEY NEED, AND THEY MUST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN OUR SOCIETY.

AND JUST LET ME SAY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON IS ESPECIALLY AWARE OF THIS. IT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO INVOLVE THE HANDICAPPED IN MEANINGFUL AND PRODUCTIVE JOBS. LET ME QUOTE PART OF A MEMO PRESIDENT NIXON SENT TO THE HEADS OF HIS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES: "IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, IN STAFFING THE FEDERAL SERVICE, TO GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE EMPLOYMENT AND SELECTIVE PLACEMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED.

"ADMINISTRATIONS OF BOTH PARTIES, SINCE WORLD WAR II, HAVE SET EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN OPENING THE GOVERNMENT'S DOORS TO MORE THAN ONE-QUARTER MILLION CITIZENS WHO, THOUGH HANDICAPPED, HAVE NONETHELESS BEEN OCCUPATIONALLY QUALIFIED.

"I HAVE PERSONALLY OBSERVED THE MUTUAL BENEFITS THAT DERIVE FROM HIRING THE HANDICAPPED, AND I WANT THIS...TO CONTINUE..."

THIS IS AN INDICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN. I WOULD HOPE THAT ALL AMERICANS IN THIS TIME WOULD FOLLOW THE PRESIDENT IN THIS MATTER OF GREAT HUMAN CONCERN.

YOU AND I HAVE SEEN CRIPPLED CHILDREN. WE HAVE SEEN THE COURAGE WITH WHICH THEY MEET THE WORLD AROUND THEM. I DO NOT THINK ANY OF US IS WILLING FOR THAT WORLD TO BE LESS REWARDING FOR THEM THAN IT IS FOR THE CHILD WHOSE BODY, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, IS STRAIGHT. I DO NOT THINK ANY OF US IS WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT A HANDICAP SHOULD PREJUDICE A CRIPPLED CHILD'S RIGHT TO BE HAPPY. AND I DO NOT THINK WE ARE WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR LIVES NEED BE LESS PRODUCTIVE.

WE CAN AND WE MUST DO MORE TO INSURE THAT THEIR LIVES
WILL BE PRODUCTIVE. AND, LIKEWISE, WE CAN AND WE MUST DO MORE
TO BRING THE HANDICAPPED VETERAN INTO A PRODUCTIVE ROLE IN SOCIETY
JUST AS RAPIDLY AS HE CAN POSSIBLY BE BROUGHT IN.

I BELIEVE THAT THERE MUST BE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF
THE NEED FOR AND BENEFITS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION. IT WAS NOT TOO LONG
AGO THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS ATTEMPT TO "PROMOTE THE GENERAL
WELFARE" CONCEIVED MEASURES TO PROTECT SOCIETY FROM PHYSICALLY
AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS. WE NEED ONLY TO LOOK AT OUR
OLDER CUSTODIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FIND REMINDERS OF THE PAST.
FORTUNATELY, THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF DEDICATED CITIZENS,
SUCH AS YOURSELVES, THIS ATTITUDE HAS BEEN REVERSED.

- NEW AWARENESS -

IT IS TRUE THAT MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS REGARD. WE HAVE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT REHABILITATION IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE. THE OTHER HALF HAS BEEN TO EDUCATE THOSE WHO ARE NOT CRIPPLED -- THOSE WHO ARE NOT HANDICAPPED, TO PUSH BACK THE DARK NIGHT OF CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING AND WORTHLESS PITY WHICH FOR SO LONG ISOLATED THE HANDICAPPED IN OUR SOCIETY.

NOW EMPLOYERS, GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS, EDUCATORS -- INDEED THE ENTIRE AMERICAN PUBLIC -- ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT SIMPLY BECAUSE A MAN IS HANDICAPPED DOES NOT MEAN HE IS NON-PRODUCTIVE.

THERE IS A STORY TOLD OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR IN ANCIENT GREECE ABOUT A YOUNG ATHENIAN WHO CAME INTO THE FRONT LINES AT SYRACUSE. THE BOY HAD A CRIPPLED FOOT, AND SO THE OTHER SOLDIERS LAUGHED AT HIM FOR COMING THERE. BUT THE BOY SAID, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY FOOT. I AM HERE TO FIGHT -- NOT TO RUN."

AND THE SOLDIERS STOPPED LAUGHING.

THE SAME SPIRIT OF COURAGE, DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE IS TO BE FOUND IN THE HANDICAPPED IN AMERICA. AND ALL AMERICANS ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE IT. THEY ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT A HANDICAP IS A RELATIVE MATTER.

BUT WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN DONE, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. IN THE REHABILITATION PERIOD, THESE PEOPLE NEED THE SORT OF PERSONAL CONCERN AND PERSONAL ATTENTION THAT THE ALREADY OVERBURDENED THERAPISTS AND ATTENDENTS SIMPLY CANNOT PROVIDE.

WE ARE TOLD BY THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION THAT APPROXIMATELY THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND TEACHERS OF THE HANDICAPPED ARE NEEDED WITH LESS THAN ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND AVAILABLE. WE ARE ALSO TOLD THAT NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN OF THE NATION ARE NOT RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN MANY CASES BECAUSE OF LACK OF PERSONNEL.

THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH YOU CAN MAKE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION -- BY MAKING YOUR STUDENTS, BOTH IN GRADE SCHOOL AND IN HIGH SCHOOL, AWARE OF THE NEED FOR CAREER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEVOTED TO THE WELFARE AND SELF-FULFILLMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED. JUST AS THE NEED IS GREAT, SO ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES. AND THE EARLIER YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MADE AWARE OF THESE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES, THE MORE LIKELY THEY WILL BE TO SET THEIR SIGHTS ON CAREERS IN THIS AREA. AND INCIDENTALLY THE GENERAL PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE HANDICAPPED'S PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS WILL BE INCREASED TOO.

- THE INFORMATION PROBLEM -

AND WE HAVE A JOB TO DO IN INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED. CERTAINLY THE PUBLIC IS BECOMING ENLIGHTENED IN ITS ATTITUDES, BUT IT STILL HAS MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED. YOU CAN HELP IN EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS HERE.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE CONTINUE TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT BUILDINGS AND SCHOOLS THAT MANY OF OUR PEOPLE SIMPLY CANNOT USE. ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS NEED A MORE SOPHISTICATED UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE CAN DO BETTER THAN TO PUT UP BUILDINGS THAT 20 PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE CANNOT USE.

A PERSON IN A WHEEL CHAIR CANNOT GET DOWN OFF A CURB BY HIMSELF. AND A PERSON ON CRUTCHES CAN ONLY DO SO WITH VARYING DEGREES OF DIFFICULTY. IT IS A SIMPLE MATTER TO GRADE RAMPS INTO OUR CURBS FOR THESE PEOPLE, BUT HOW MANY OF OUR TOWNS AND CITIES DO IT?

THESE ARE PROBLEMS THAT STEM FROM THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE STILL NOT SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE HANDICAPPED -- AND THOSE WHO HAVE HANDICAPS ARE FREQUENTLY RELUCTANT TO PUSH THEIR CASE VERY HARD BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO ASK FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. BUT IT IS NOT SPECIAL TREATMENT TO GIVE A PERSON THE CHANCE TO BE HAPPY AND PRODUCTIVE. IT IS COMMON SENSE. THE NATION CANNOT AFFORD TO WRITE OFF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF 20 PERCENT OF ITS PEOPLE, SO WE MUST MAKE THE CASE FOR THEM.

FINALLY, JUST AS THE HANDICAPPED SUFFER FROM WHAT THE REST OF THE PUBLIC DOES NOT KNOW, THEY ALSO SUFFER FROM WHAT THEY DO NOT KNOW THEMSELVES. THE HANDICAPPED HAVE SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH THEY CAN DRAW UPON. IN THE AREAS OF CARE, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, IN THE RESULTS OF ON-GOING RESEARCH; IN REHABILITATION FACILITIES -- IN ALL THESE AREAS THERE IS AID AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED. BUT ALL TOO FREQUENTLY THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THIS -- THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO THEM. SO HERE, TOO, WE NEED AN EDUCATIONAL EFFORT.

- NATIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER -

LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AGO I INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE A MEASURE WHICH SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED. THIS CENTER WOULD BE LOCATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, AND IT WOULD SERVE AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR INFORMATION OF VALUE TO THE HANDICAPPED.

THEY COULD DRAW ON THIS CENTER FROM ALL OVER THE NATION, THUS VIRTUALLY ENDING ONE OF THE GREATEST SOURCES OF FRUSTRATION, NEEDLESS EXPENSE, AND FAILURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED -- WHICH IS PURELY AND SIMPLY A LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT SERVICES AND RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

FOR EXAMPLE, NO ONE SOURCE EXISTS WHERE THE HANDICAPPED AND THEIR FAMILIES CAN TURN FOR INFORMATION ON SCHOOLS WITH SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES FOR THEM. THE NATIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED WILL PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION TO THE HANDICAPPED. IT WILL PROVIDE UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION TO THOSE INVOLVED IN TEACHING THE HANDICAPPED.

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT IN OUR OWN STATE THIS MEASURE HAS RECEIVED BROAD SUPPORT. A FEW OF THE ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING IT WERE THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, AND KANSAS HEART ASSOCIATION AND THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COUNSELING SERVICE, AND UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF KANSAS.

AND I AM ALSO PROUD TO TELL YOU THAT THIS MEASURE PASSED THE SENATE BY A VOTE OF 64 TO 1.

- CONCLUSION -

BUT THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE, AND THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH THE NEEDS OF OUR FELLOW MAN IS TO REALIZE THAT IF WE DO NOT DO THE JOB, IT WILL NOT GET DONE. THOSE OF YOU IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION HAVE A CRITICAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS EFFORT, BOTH IN ENLIGHTENING AND DIRECTING THE GREAT BODY OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND IN SERVING THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE HANDICAPPED.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CREATE A GREAT BACKLOG OF HANDICAPPED HUMAN BEINGS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR, SO WE HAVE TO WORK HARDER THAN EVER NOW TO KEEP UP.

LET US LIGHT CANDLES TO PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS OF LIVES WASTED BY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL AFFLICTIONS.

LET US LIGHT CANDLES TO PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS OF CONFUSION AND IGNORANCE THAT HAMPERS THE WAY OF THE HANDICAPPED IN HIS PUBLIC LIFE.

LET US LIGHT CANDLES TO PUSH BACK THE DARKNESS OF CONFUSION AND IGNORANCE IN THE LIVES OF THE HANDICAPPED THEMSELVES.

LET US DO THESE THINGS THAT MUST BE DONE, AND WE WILL BRING NEW LIGHT INTO OUR OWN LIVES AS WELL AND NEW LIGHT INTO THE LIFE OF OUR GREAT NATION.