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STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

NEW HAMPSHIRE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION

IT WAS A GREAT NEW ENGLAND EDUCATOR, HORACE MANN, WHO WROTE THAT "SCHOOL HOUSES ARE THE REPUBLICAN LINE OF FORTIFICATION." HE SAID REPUBLICAN WITH A SMALL R - BUT I AGREE WITH HIM ANYWAY.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH ALL OF YOU TODAY, AND TO GIVE YOU MY CANDID APPRAISAL OF THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY, AND WHAT THE PROPER ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BE IN PROMOTING THE FINEST POSSIBLE SYSTEM OF SCHOOLING.

THE RIGHT ROLE OF WASHINGTON IN EDUCATION

I BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION IN AMERICA SHOULD BE PROMOTED ALONG TRADITIONAL LINES, THAT IS TO SAY, WITH THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND LOCAL CONTROL. FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE ASKED SOME TOUCH QUESTIONS OF THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO WHOLLY FEDERALIZE OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

FOR INSTANCE, ONE ISSUE WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SPECIAL CONCERN OF MINE IS NUTRITION. I'VE BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER THROUGHOUT MY CAREER OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE OUR NATION'S AWARENESS OF THE ROLE GOOD NUTRITION CAN PLAY IN IMPROVED HEALTH. I'M PROUD OF MY SUPPORT FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, AND FOR CHILD NUTRITION AMENDMENTS PROVIDING FUNDS TO TRAIN CAFETERIA AND TEACHING PERSONNEL. I WAS APPALLED TO SEE A HALF BILLION DOLLAR REDUCTION IN THE 1980 CARTER BUDGET FOR CHILD NUTRITION, AND I FOUGHT HARD WITH MY COLLEAGUES TO RESTORE MUCH OF THAT CUT. AS RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, I STOOD UP ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES - AND WE'VE WON MORE BATTLES THAN WE'VE LOST.

THE FACT IS, GEORGE MCGOVERN AND I MAY NOT AGREE ON MANY OTHER THINGS...BUT WE'RE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE BETTER NUTRITION BY BUILDING UPON EXISTING EFFORTS LIKE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK AND SCHOOL MILK PROGRAMS. WHATEVER THIS MAY COST US IN THE SHORT RUN, IT WILL BE RECOUPED MANY TIMES OVER IN HEALTHIER LIVES.



IN FACT, WHAT NUTRITION AND SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS CONTRIBUTE TO IS PRECISELY THAT QUALITY OF INDIVIDUAL INDEPENDENCE THAT I MENTIONED AT THE OUTSET AS MY GUIDING PRINCIPLE. TO GIVE CHILDREN AS EQUAL A CHANCE AT THE START OF THEIR LIVES AS WE CAN, TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE NUTRITIONAL AS WELL AS EDUCATIONAL TOOLS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS...THIS IS A LEGITIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE. THIS IS PART OF OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, I HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO EXTEND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO AMERICA'S HANDICAPPED CITIZENS. NO ONE IN THE CONGRESS HAS DONE MORE TO INSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO SCHOOLING FOR THE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED. NO ONE IS A STRONGER SUPPORTER OF MAINSTREAMING. I LIKE TO THINK MY COMMITMENT TO THE HANDICAPPED IS PERSONAL AS WELL AS PUBLIC. I'VE SEEN THE AMERICAN DREAM COME TRUE IN MY OWN LIFE, AND I WILL NOT REST EASY AS LONG AS EQUAL ACCESS TO THAT DREAM IS DENIED TO ANY AMERICAN CHILD BECAUSE HE OR SHE IS DIFFERENT.

THIS TOO, IS PART AND PARCEL OF A REPUBLICAN APPROACH TO EDUCATION, ONE STRESSING INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY OVER FEDERAL DICTATION. THIS TOO IS AN AREA IN WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO BECOME INVOLVED.

BUT, BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT STRESSES LOCALITY AND INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION, I HAVE HONEST QUESTIONS ABOUT THOSE WHO WOULD FURTHER CENTRALIZE ALL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY WITHIN THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR ME TO CAST A VOTE FOR THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY POPULAR. IT WOULD HAVE MADE A LOT OF CONSTITUENTS IN KANSAS HAPPY. BUT I COULD NOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE CAST SUCH A VOTE.

AND LET ME TELL YOU WHY...

THE IDEA OF REORGANIZING ALL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS IS NOT NEW. ALMOST A HUNDRED SUCH PLANS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE LAST FOUR DECADES. ON THE SURFACE, THE IDEA HAS A CERTAIN APPEAL. WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH CENTRALIZING CONTROL OF 164 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE WASHINGTON MAZE, WITH A BUDGET OF OVER \$17 BILLION. SUCH A DEPARTMENT MIGHT GIVE EDUCATION ADDITIONAL POLITICAL CLOUT. IT WOULD ELIMINATE THE SCATTERSHOT EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING PROGRAMS, AND REDUCE HEW TO SOMETHING LIKE A MANAGEABLE DEPARTMENT.



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MY MOST SERIOUS OBJECTION TO THE PLAN AS PROPOSED IN 1978 WAS THE EFFORT TO REMOVE EXISTING CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS FROM THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THIS SEEMED IRRATIONAL TO ME AT A TIME WHEN AMERICAN AWARENESS OF THE LINKAGE BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND GOOD NUTRITION WAS HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE. IT SEEMED IRRATIONAL TO YANK SUCH PROGRAMS FROM A DEPARTMENT WHICH HAD CAREFULLY NURTURED THEIR DEVELOPMENT, AND DROP THEM INTO A NEW DEPARTMENT WHERE THEY LACKED ANY SUCH BUILT-IN CONSTITUENCY.

ULTIMATELY, WE WON THAT FIGHT - WHILE LOOSING THE BIGGER ONE AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ITSELF.

#### PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION

MOST PARENTS AND EDUCATORS HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY. THE RESULTS OF STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS SHOW A STEADY DECLINE IN TEST SCORES. IN REACTION TO THIS PHENOMENON, ANY NUMBER OF THEORIES HAVE BEEN FORMULATED TO EXPLAIN WHERE EDUCATION HAS GONE WRONG. WHATEVER THE REASON, ONE CANNOT SAY THE DECLINE IN TEST SCORES RESULTS FROM LACK OF FEDERAL DOLLARS.

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FEDERAL SPENDING HAS INCREASED MANY TIMES OVER FROM THE DAYS THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION WAS CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE IN 1953. TODAY, FEDERAL SPENDING IN THIS AREA IS ABOUT \$10 BILLION ANNUALLY. GIVEN THE DOCUMENTED INCREASE IN FEDERAL SPENDING FOR EDUCATION, IT SEEMS A RATHER WEAK ARGUMENT TO ASSERT THAT THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION HAS BEEN SLIGHTED WITHIN HEW. TO THE CONTRARY, I FEEL THAT EDUCATION PROGRAMS HAVE PROSPERED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT SEVERAL IMPORTANT ADVANCEMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE OR ARE EVOLVING.

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### ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER CURRENT SYSTEM

FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE MADE STRICKING PROGRESS IN OUR PROMOTION OF RACIAL INTEGRATION. WHILE THE SITUATION IS FAR FROM IDEAL, THERE CAN BE NO ARGUMENT BUT THAT MILLIONS OF AMERICAN STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING IN AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL SYSTEM. LIKEWISE, HEW IS HELPING TO SEE THAT P.L. 94-142, THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT, IS BEING IMPLEMENTED, AND THAT MILLIONS OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ARE HAVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THEY HAVE NEVER HAD ACCESS TO BEFORE. IN ADDITION TO SERVING RACIAL MINORITIES AND HANDICAPPED STUDENTS, THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH POOR ENGLISH USAGE HAVE BEEN NOTED, AND BILINGUAL PROGRAMS MADE AVAILABLE WHEREVER POSSIBLE. THERE IS NOW MORE MONEY AVAILABLE FOR LOANS TO LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME STUDENTS, INDIANS HAVE ACCESS TO BETTER EDUCATION SERVICES, AND THROUGH AN EXPANDING TITLE I OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT, ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS ARE AFFORDED BETTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.



THIS LITANY IN NO WAY EXONERATES HEW FOR DUPLICATION OF STAFF, NEEDLESS ADMINISTRATIVE ENTANGLEMENTS, OR EXCESSIVE REGULATION OF SCHOOLS. INSTEAD, I THINK IT POINTS OUT THAT DESPITE PROBLEMS, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND IT IS LEGITIMATE, I THINK, TO EXPECT PROGRESS TO CONTINUE. IN MY OPINION, WE SHOULD ATTACK PROBLEMS AND WEAKNESSES ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS--NOT CREATE EVEN MORE BUREAUCRACY WHICH IF ANYTHING WILL TEND TO CAMOUFLAGE THE PROBLEM.

#### THE NEED FOR LOCAL CONTROL

HISTORICALLY THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN DETERMINED BY STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. I BELIEVE THIS IS SOUND. IT IS NOT TRADITION WHICH TIES ME TO THIS PHILOSOPHY, BUT RATHER A BELIEF THAT EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD REMAIN VESTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

MOREOVER, I FEAR THAT A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT WILL TEND TO POLITICIZE EDUCATION. TO MY WAY OF THINKING, EDUCATION IS NEITHER REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC. IT IS COMPETENT OR INCOMPETENT. I WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE TO QUARANTINE EDUCATION FROM POLITICAL FORCES.



THE BUSINESS OF EDUCATING OUR STUDENTS MUST BE DONE CLOSE TO HOME, CLOSE TO THE PROVIDERS OF REVENUES, AND CLOSE TO THE STUDENTS WHO REFLECT THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. PARENTS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS SHOULD ALL PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS. AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BEGINS TO DOMINATE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEMS, THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL HAVE LITTLE OPPORTUNITY OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO JOIN FORCES FOR IMPROVING OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP VOICES CANNOT SHOUT LOUD ENOUGH FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE TO BE HEARD IN WASHINGTON.

ALREADY, THE NEW DEPARTMENT IS EMBROILED WITH BUREAUCRATIC SQUABBING OVER WHERE IT IS TO BE LOCATED, AND WHO IS TO WORK FOR WHOM. NASA REFUSES TO BUDGE, SO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN SCATTERED IN 14 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AROUND WASHINGTON.

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A FIGHT HAS BROKEN OUT OVER THE OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, A 1700 MEMBER SUBDIVISION OF HEW. HEW WANTS TO KEEP HALF THE STAFF FOR ITSELF, THE NEW DEPARTMENT WANTS MUCH MORE THAN HALF. CONGRESS DIDN'T EVEN APPROPRIATE A DIME FOR TRANSITION EXPENSES - SO THEY HAVE TO COME OUT OF PROGRAM BUDGETS. JOB HUNTERS HAVE DESCENDED IN DROVES UPON THE NEW SECRETARY, IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT THERE ARE 17,000 NEW JOBS TO FILL, AND NO ONE REALLY EXPECTS PATRICIA HARRIS AND SHIRLEY HUFSTEDLER TO GET ALONG LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD.

THE FACT IS, WE'VE SET UP ONE MORE COMBATANT IN THE AGE OLD BATTLEGROUND OF WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER WE'VE DONE ANYTHING TO STRENGTHEN EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.