

Kay Luther

*RHD
B-338-340*

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

- THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF EDUCATION IN THIS WORLD. THERE'S ONE YOU GIVE YOURSELF, AND ANOTHER YOU GET FROM OTHERS. YOU CAN GET AN EDUCATION ON THE FARM OR IN A FACTORY, IN A SCIENCE LAB OR IN A CHURCH PEW. MOST OF ALL, YOU CAN GET AN EDUCATION JUST BY LOOKING AT LIFE AROUND YOU. WHEN I WAS A BOY, I DOUBT WE KNEW THE NAMES OF OUR CONGRESSMEN OR SENATORS. BUT WE WERE BLESSED TO HAVE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO KNEW AND CARED FOR ONE ANOTHER. WHEN TIMES WERE TOUGH, PEOPLE WERE TOUGHER. WHEN THE WINDS HOWLED AND PART OF THE PRAIRIE ITSELF WAS BLOWN AWAY, I COULD BARELY SEE TO DELIVER THE NEWSPAPERS ON MY PAPER ROUTE. BUT BECAUSE I CAME FROM RUSSELL, BECAUSE I CAME FROM KANSAS, I WAS GRANTED A SPECIAL VISION -- ONE WHICH HAS SEEN ME THROUGH ALL THE YEARS SINCE -- ONE WHICH YOU CAN RELY ON JUST THE SAME.
- THE WORLD HAS TURNED OVER MANY TIMES SINCE I RECEIVED MY DIPLOMA IN RUSSELL, KANSAS. AND, ON THE SURFACE, A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE SPRING OF 1941. BUT THINK OF WHAT HASN'T CHANGED.
- NOW, AS THEN, THE TRUE STRENGTH OF AMERICA LIES IN HER PEOPLE. NOW, AS THEN, YOUNG PEOPLE LOOK AT THEIR LOCAL ECONOMY -- WHETHER TOWN OR COUNTRY, CITY OR SUBURB -- AND ASK THEMSELVES IF IT HAS ROOM TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS. NOW, AS THEN, EVEN TEMPORARY JOBS ARE NOT ALWAYS EASY TO FIND. AND NOW, AS THEN, AMERICA IS STILL READY TO COME TO THE AID OF THOSE IN NEED. BELIEVERS IN SELF-RELIANCE, OUR PEOPLE ARE NO LESS COMMITTED TO THE NOTION OF AMERICA AS A FAMILY OF COMMUNITIES, OF PLACES WHERE YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS AS FLESH AND BLOOD CREATIONS, AND NOT AS SOME STATISTIC ON A GOVERNMENT PRINT-OUT.
- AMERICA HAS COME THROUGH TOUGH TIMES. BUT WE ALWAYS FIND OUR BETTER NATURES. WE THROW OFF THE PLAGUE OF SELF-DOUBT. WE STOP APOLOGIZING FOR, AND START ASSERTING OUR VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS. AND TODAY, AMERICA IS BACK. WHAT HOLDS TRUE FOR COUNTRIES HOLDS TRUE FOR INDIVIDUALS AS WELL. TIMES OF CHANGE ARE TIMES OF CHALLENGE. IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING TESTED THAT WE DISCOVER WITHIN OURSELVES THOSE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF PLUCK AND DETERMINATION, ABILITY AND RESOLVE, THAT WE MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE REVEAL.
- I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NEVER STOP BELIEVING IN THINGS YOU CANNOT SEE. AND I HOPE THAT IN MAKING A LIFE FOR YOURSELVES, YOU WON'T NEGLECT CONTRIBUTING TO THE LIFE OF YOUR COUNTRY AS WELL.

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BOB DOLE
KANSAS

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 24, 1986

TO: Senator Dole
FROM: George Pieler
SUBJECT: Talk to Presidential Scholars

This is a brief (10-15 minute) luncheon talk to this year's Presidential Scholars, their advisors, distinguished educators, and the like. Special guests include Mary Hatwood Futrell (NEA) and Guy Doud, National Teacher of the Year.

What they would like from you is some inspiration, drawing from your own career and experience if you wish.

Attached are some excerpts from your Russell commencement speech that you might find appropriate. Also attached are some talking points on education issues which Chris prepared.

attachments

MEMORANDUM

June 24, 1986

TO: Senator Dole
FROM: Christina Bolton
RE: Presidential Scholars Luncheon Tomorrow

There will be four Kansans at the Presidential Scholars luncheon tomorrow. This is part of a national program to recognize outstanding students, who in turn select a teacher who has profoundly influenced them.

The two scholars will be Mark Ducey from Lawrence, and Jo Anne Long from Goodland. The teachers they selected are Del Fambrough (Don's wife) from Lawrence, and John Palmquist, from Goodland.

TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS LUNCHEON

- THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THIS COUNTRY'S EDUCATION SYSTEM. THESE OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS HAVE SET HIGH GOALS FOR THEMSELVES AND HAVE ACHIEVED THEM. THIS PROGRAM SEEKS TO RECOGNIZE THEM FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. BEHIND EVERY GOOD STUDENT IS THE INFLUENCE OF AN INSPIRING TEACHER, AND IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT TEACHERS ARE HONORED ALONG WITH THE STUDENTS THEY HAVE TAUGHT.

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 ON THE QUALITY OF LOCAL INVOLVEMENT.
- PROVIDING FEDERAL FUNDS TO HELP EDUCATE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE REPRESENTS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS WE CAN MAKE WITH OUR TAX DOLLARS. HOWEVER, THE SOURCE IS NOT WITHOUT ITS LIMITATIONS.
- 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 CHILDREN 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.
- YOUNG PEOPLE 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.

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

- 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.
- 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.
- BY NOW WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE REPORT "A NATION AT RISK" THAT MOBILIZED THIS COUNTRY TO TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE ITS PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM. IT WAS UNDER PRESIDENT REAGAN'S AND TED BELL'S LEADERSHIP THAT THIS REPORT WAS CONDUCTED. THE REPORT MADE OFFICIAL WHAT WE HAD KNOWN FOR ALONG TIME --THAT THE QUALITY OF OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM HAD SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, WHAT THE REPORT DID NOT RECOMMEND WAS A MASSIVE INFUSION OF FEDERAL FUNDS.
- AS A RESULT OF THIS REPORT, STATES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE GEARED UP TO IMPLEMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR SCHOOLS. WE HAVE THE PRESIDENT TO THANK FOR GENERATING AN AWARENESS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM AND FOR EXHORTING THOSE CONCERNED TO TAKE ACTION TO CORRECT THE PROBLEMS.
- 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.
- 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."