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- Dr. Dubuque  
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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

TO

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

APRIL 8, 1965

The opportunity to choose is the foundation of freedom. Never in our history has the individual American had the range of choices and the capacity to choose that he has today.

But we must, nevertheless, continue to seek ways to expand this foundation of freedom -- this opportunity to choose -- until it becomes a reality for all Americans.

The vision of a Great Society is not the vision of a welfare state. Welfare programs provide only

temporary assistance to persons in urgent economic or social need. Today we must look

beyond this. We must attack also the root causes of ignorance, disease and poverty. | War on Poverty

Let us, therefore, describe the Great Society not as a welfare state, but as a state of opportunity.

Man must possess opportunity in tangible terms to develop his abilities and potentialities to the fullest, if he is to be truly free.

And although some men may choose to squander this opportunity -- all men must be given the chance to lead meaningful and satisfying lives.

The Great Society is based on the proposition that every American shall have that chance.

Basic to that chance is the opportunity to receive an education to the limits of one's abilities and according to one's willingness to work.

Good Teaching is the Key!

Thomas Jefferson recognized this fundamental truth over 150 years ago: "If you expect a nation to be ignorant and free, you expect what never was and never will be."

In the past 60 years we have made impressive progress in expanding educational opportunities.

✓ In 1900, four Americans in every hundred between the ages of 18 and 21 attended college. In 1961 it was over thirty-two. In 1900 rich and poor alike, if adequately qualified, had the right to attend college. But how much real choice existed?

✓ Millions of young Americans are being educated today in our colleges and universities.

L But what of the more than 100 thousand of  
our brightest high school graduates each year  
who will not go to college unless opportunity is  
expanded still further?

L What of the million young people who will  
quit high school each year if we fail to make  
learning an exciting and challenging experience?

L What of the 400 thousand new classrooms  
needed to absorb the young minds coming to our  
elementary and secondary schools in the next five  
years?

L President Johnson proposed in his historic  
education message to the Congress that we declare  
a national goal of Full Educational Opportunity.

L My fellow teachers, the evidence indicates  
that the American people support this goal.

LB's-  
Teacher!

L This year, for the first time, public opinion polls show that Americans consider opportunity for education to be their most important domestic concern.

This feeling reflects a growing realization of the cost of inadequate or incomplete education: the waste of human potential.

L Inadequate education leads to unemployment:  
The high school dropout is twice as likely to be unemployed as the high school graduate, and five times as likely as the college graduate.

L Inadequate education leads to poverty: Two-thirds of the families in which the father had less than eight years of schooling find themselves locked in economic hopelessness.

L Inadequate education perpetuates itself in future generations: The children of the unemployed and poor become themselves unemployed and poor.

✓ The American people are ready for bold and creative efforts in education.

✓ ~~Almost~~ <sup>about</sup> two weeks ago the House of Representatives demonstrated this readiness by passing overwhelmingly the Elementary and Secondary Education

Bill of 1965. The Senate too will pass it ~~today~~

~~in tomorrow's~~ <sup>(Operation Catch-up)</sup>

✓ This bill will help more than 48 million school children in this country. It provides one and <sup>1.3 b.d.</sup> a third billion dollars for elementary and secondary education. More than a billion dollars will be devoted specifically to helping the children of the poor.

✓ The Elementary and Secondary Education Bill will attack other problems -- old problems extending far beyond the question of poverty.

✓ It provides funds for elementary and secondary school libraries.

It helps local schools acquire up-to-date textbooks and teaching materials.

It authorizes the development of community education centers to enable students of all ages to supplement and continue their education in new imaginative ways.

It provides for greater educational research and development -- and this has been seriously neglected in recent years.

---

*Operation Catch-21*

President Johnson has also proposed a comprehensive program of assistance for our colleges and universities. This Administration's Higher Education Bill provides undergraduate scholarship grants of up to 800 dollars a year for high school graduates from low-income families.

It establishes a student loan insurance fund and extends the National Defense Education student loan program for an additional three years.

↳ This legislation establishes a program to help colleges and universities develop more effective adult education and extension courses.

↳ It authorizes a five-year program to help colleges and universities acquire library materials and trained library personnel. And, finally, it establishes a program to assist smaller colleges in strengthening their academic programs.

Our goal -

We seek to help students.

In adopting this approach, we look beyond conflicts that have divided us in the past, and deprived us of essential educational aid. We look beyond regional conflicts, federal-state conflicts and church-state conflicts to the real challenge: the education of millions and the future of America. And it will be done within the guidelines of the First Amendment to the Constitution.



∟ The federal government is ready and willing to assume its full share of the burden of expanding educational opportunity. We appreciate that tax resources of many states will not permit great enough expansion of educational facilities.

∟ The challenge requires commitment and action at every level of government: federal, state, and local.

∟ Opportunity for education can give our citizens a rare opportunity to lead productive lives.

Hopefully, they will continue that education so that the old idea of graduation as a "commencement" will be realized in their lives and in the lives of their children.

Hopefully, they will recognize their obligation to participate actively in bettering their communities and their nation. Education is not just receiving.

As you here today well know, true education also involves giving of one's knowledge ... talents ... ability ... faith and compassion. It requires teaching dedicated to excellence.

L Each of us as a teacher bears a high obligation.

Alexander Hamilton wrote in the First Federalist

paper: "It seems to have been reserved for the

people of this country by their conduct and example

to decide the important question: whether societies

of men are really capable or not of establishing

good government from reflection and choice, or

whether they are forever destined to depend for

their constitutions on accident and chance."

L Do we today possess the courage, the wisdom, the sense of justice, and the determination to continue to answer "yes" to Hamilton's question? Can we make good government a product of our minds and our hearts? —

Will we possess the breadth of vision to fully develop democratic government for ourselves and all mankind?

✓ The founders of this Republic considered Americans a chosen people capable of accepting the burden of choice -- a people who could assume voluntarily the burden of freedom.

✓ Our founders accepted that responsibility. And, in doing so, they changed the world. Today a similar opportunity is within our grasp -- the chance to more nearly complete this task in America.

*But,* It can only be completed by men and women educated to that task.

✓ Let us, then, accept seriously our obligation to liberate the human spirit in America ... to extend to everyone the opportunity to lead a life of choice. ✓ This life is never easy -- for freedom

entails responsibility, and responsibility  
brings lasting burdens.

And, yet, this life also offers the rare  
opportunity of self-fulfillment.

This life offers us opportunity to join in the creative task of building the America begun but never complete.

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# INFORMATION

FROM THE  
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE  
-ON-  
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY  
Washington 25, D. C.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 8, 1965

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