

## REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-SCHOOL CONFERENCE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 7, 1965

I understand that this is the first time ~~in~~  
~~history~~ that all of Cleveland's public school teachers  
and principals have been in the same place at the  
same time. (Although there must be one or two  
truants today)

*I'm  
Refugee  
from a  
classroom!*

↳ This is the former educator's dream: An audience  
of 6,000 teachers -- and the members of the Board of  
Education, as well -- to be told about education. !

↳ A few weeks ago I had the honor of addressing,  
in Washington, an historic White House Conference on  
Education. That conference was an inspiration to all

who participated in it, ~~that conference~~ <sup>It</sup> was not just the usual meeting of genial people, a few formal speeches, and a closing banquet. It was a conference marked by questioning, by debate, by challenge to old ways of thinking. And that is good. For our country today can afford nothing less than the fullest development of the potential of each of its citizens. And that can only be done through education -- education in tune with the times, education of and for excellence. !

In our world today there is <sup>very little</sup> no time for "catching up," no room for errors to be tolerated and later corrected.

The world we live in is one of <sup>rapid</sup> change and uncertainty. ~~It is a world which makes demands~~ <sup>It makes demands</sup>

on all of us,

We must face the fact that there are modern weapons which can destroy the civilized world in a half-hour's time.

Exacting-  
Demanding  
Tanner.

✓ We must face the fact that two-thirds of the world is poor, hungry, and sick and that the gap between rich and poor nations widens each year.

✓ We must face the fact that ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> globe is exploding with people.

✓ We must face the fact that we are engulfed in great waves of scientific and technological change which we do not fully understand, and which can overcome us or save us. !

*and* ✓ We must face the fact, too, that there are people in this world who would make it a totalitarian world -- a world in which man would live to serve the state and not the state man.

Thomas Jefferson said and this is true, that "no nation can be both ignorant and free."

He also said, in equal truth: ". . . What service  
can we ever render to our country equal to promoting  
education? . . . The exertions and mortifications are  
temporary; the benefit eternal."

Cleveland has learned this lesson well.

There was a time, and I speak frankly, when  
education in this city was less than it should have been.

But the public officials, the educators, the parents,  
the citizens of this city came to recognize that it was  
time for a change.

Today great things are happening here in education.

You have the largest library program in the United  
States. You will have some 100 new school libraries  
in the next 12 months.

*you know  
this!*

*but let  
me emphasize.*

✓ You have doubled your vocational education  
programs -- and vocational education for jobs of today  
and tomorrow, not jobs of yesterday.

*up  
to  
date*

✓ You increased, this year, your summer school  
enrollment by 300 per cent.

✓ You are teaching 5,000 adult men and women,  
for the first time, to read and write.

*combat  
illiteracy*

✓ You are providing to this city education of  
quantity and quality. !

And this city, and our country, are the better  
for it. The 153,000 students in your city <sup>*Public*</sup> schools will  
certainly be the better for it.

*+ 90,000 in Private  
& Parochial.*

✓ Tomorrow is the first day of the fall school term  
for most of America.

✓ But, for many young Americans, who should be  
returning to school, this will not be true.

BACK to School

- 6 -

SCHOOL  
DROP  
OUTS!

If our national problem of school dropouts continues at its present pace, we will have in ten years some 32 million adults in the labor force without a high school diploma. These will be 32 million Americans, without adequate skill and education, in a society demanding more skill and education than ever before.

During this coming school year we face the prospect of 750 thousand <sup>new</sup> dropouts. Some of them will not be at school tomorrow.

Can our nation afford this terrible waste of its human resources?

Can it in ten years afford to sustain 32 million Americans, and the members of their families, without adequate training and education? Can we afford the cost of public welfare to support those not able to

support themselves? Can we afford the loss of their potential productivity?

~~(think of what it would mean if these people fully paid!)~~

The answer is quite obviously "no." We cannot

tolerate such loss, such tragic waste of human potential on either economic or moral basis.!

↳ To meet the dropout problem of tomorrow -- the problem of those faced with deciding whether or not

to go to school at the beginning of the fall term -- we have ~~are taking some~~ in Washington ~~have taken~~ active and direct steps this

summer.

↳ The President, some weeks ago, charged me with this task.

↳ Since that time our government task force, formed to take on this job, has been at work.

↳ First, we set out to create summer jobs for young men and women who needed those jobs to be able to remain in school.

Summer Jobs.

Rich as we are then waste too much.

Youth employ opt.

✓ We contacted private businessmen, we contacted state employment services, we worked through the Neighborhood Youth Corps, we increased where possible federal hiring.

✓ I have not yet given my final report on this program to the President. But I will take the risk today of predicting it will show that this Youth Opportunity Campaign resulted in employment of more than 1 million young Americans who would otherwise have been unemployed this summer.

✓ Two weeks ago we undertook yet another campaign at the President's direction: a Back-to-School campaign.

In these past two weeks we have worked with radio and television stations, ~~with~~ recording companies, with newspapers and magazines, ~~with~~ public officials, ~~with~~ church leaders, ~~with~~ trade associations, ~~with~~ patriotic organizations, ~~with~~ <sup>and</sup> businesses.

1 million  
jobs

Back to  
School



I personally have written letters and sent  
Back-to-School materials to mayors of 600 American  
cities, to every Congressman and Senator, <sup>you even</sup> to 125 <sup>of the Best Known</sup>  
disc jockeys. Secretary of Commerce Connor has  
contacted 6,000 individual American business firms.

Secretary of Labor Wirtz has contacted 1900 Employment  
Service offices. Commissioner of Education Keppel has  
written to 11,000 school superintendents and 12,000  
principals; the Postmaster General to almost 34,000  
postmasters; other government agencies to literally  
thousands of private and public organizations.

Our message has been this: Help get young  
Americans back to school.

The test of our efforts will come, in most parts  
of America, tomorrow morning. - this week +  
next.

4 If we have been successful we will have helped  
thous ands of young people say "yes" to their futures. !

But our campaigns this summer, and in the  
last two weeks, have been measures only to meet  
emergencies at hand.

2 To meet the long-term, undeniable educational  
necessities of this nation, we are now engaged  
in constructing solid blocks to build upon.

4 The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the  
Economic Opportunity Act, the Vocational Education  
Amendments, the Manpower Training and Development  
Act, the Higher Education Bill, the Teaching Professions  
Bill -- this is legislation passed or soon to be passed by  
this United States Congress -- a Congress which has done  
more for education than any previous American Congress.

Local and State Governments  
are doing more - Tremendous effort  
underway!

Long  
Term  
Program!

We must  
get to  
know what  
this means

Each child entering life is an  
Adventure into Tomorrow.  
A chance to break the old Pattern  
and make it new.

↳ This is a Congress responding to the leadership of an American President who was both a school dropout and a teacher, a President who says that we must give each American child all the education he can take.

← This is a Congress whose members have overwhelmingly recognized that education is the keystone of our free society, of our democratic system.

↳ This is a Congress responding to the needs and the wishes of the American people. This year, for the first time, public opinion polls show that Americans consider opportunity for education to be their most important domestic concern.

↳ Yes, the American people are ready for bold and creative efforts in education. The Congress is making those efforts. But what about those with direct responsibility in education?

Let us be honest with ourselves and recognize <sup>that</sup> ~~this~~ Despite the dedication and <sup>serious</sup> hard work of American educators, there are deficiencies in American education.

↗ We must correct them.

↗ We must, ~~for example~~ continue eliminating obsolete and outmoded teaching methods and curricula -- methods and curricula which stunt the development of creative thinking and understanding.

↗ We have begun to emphasize the importance of understanding the basic structures of mathematics, languages, and the physical and biological sciences.

As you know far better than I, new approaches in these subjects show that our young people have astounding capacity for learning when they are truly challenged and excited by the learning process.

Let us make the learning process exciting, too,  
in teaching of the humanities, the social sciences,  
and the arts. — It Can be!!

For these are the disciplines at the heart of  
creative expression and, indeed, of free political  
institutions.

These are the disciplines which perpetuate the  
priceless value of our civilization and guarantee that  
men will remain the masters of science.

*and,* <sup>#</sup> We must have the courage and foresight to use  
new mechanisms and devices to help the learning process.

We cannot afford to waste educational research and  
development because we are timid or lack the imagination  
to use what is new.

*Head Start  
Joe Coyle*

Visual aids, educational TV, and teaching machines, for instance, have not yet been used to their full potential.

We must, of course, balance and integrate these approaches with the experience that only a skillful teacher can provide. But ample evidence exists to suggest that such balances can be achieved in almost every subject area.

We must also accelerate our attempts to improve the training and preparation of teachers . . . to explore more efficient patterns of local school organization . . . and to develop additional sources of money available to our states and localities to pay for better education.

Yes, we have an obligation to adapt our educational system to meet the challenges and demands of a changing world. In the past few years we have

come a long way toward meeting these challenges and demands. But we still have great ground to cover.

∟ If we need -- as we do -- new techniques, new instruments, and new methods to assist in the process of education, we also need something old -- something eternal -- the spirit of personal commitment.

*Foreign Aid* ∟ Personal commitment will be needed, too, for tasks in education which go beyond those in our own country and which serve more than our own purposes.

∟ We Americans face, and must defeat, ignorance, illiteracy and hunger existing in the midst of our

own rich society. But we must equally face -- and and help defeat -- these same enemies where

they exist in other, less-fortunate places of the world.



↳ We are today most concerned with education here at home, in the United States. This is the immediate task before us.

But, we must recognize the truth in the words of H. G. Wells:

↳ "Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe."

↳ As our American wealth and American energy are turned to the important work of education in this nation, they must also be turned to the work of education where it is even more needed -- in the two-thirds of the world waiting on the outside for a chance ~~to do~~ *for* something better.

↳ The American educator and ~~American~~ citizen must think in larger terms . . . more ambitious terms than we have even yet begun to contemplate.

The lessons we learn at home must be applied in other places.

We of this American generation have the chance to be remembered, as Toynbee says, not for crimes or even for ~~our~~ astonishing inventions, but as the first generation to dare to make the benefits of civilization available to the whole human race.

↳ And the surest way to that goal is the way of education. Through investment in education we can begin to close the gap between rich and poor.

~~Yes, we~~ we can be remembered for our generosity, for our humanity, for our sense of commitment to our fellow man.

↳ Our weapons can be schoolhouses and books.  
↳ Our soldiers can be teaching volunteers. ↳ Our victory can be the victory of the human spirit over hopelessness

and despair. *L* Our monument can be a society of free  
and creative peoples, living at peace and with the  
knowledge that each new day can be a better day.

*L* Let us proceed, then, to let quality in education  
enhance the quality of life. *L* Let opportunity in education  
lend opportunity to all mankind.

*and* We shall be known as teachers not warriors;  
as educators not conquerors. Our legacy will not  
be the wealth of our treasury, but the richness of  
man's culture.

*yes L* Each child entering life is an adventure into  
tomorrow -- a chance to break the old pattern and make  
it new. We can, with faith and labor, make tomorrow  
a day of freedom, life and peace. *We can make*

*real our Pledge of Allegiance*  
*"one Nation, under God, indivisible*  
*with liberty & justice for all*

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You are providing to this city education of quantity and quality.

And this city, and our county, are the better for it. The 153,000 students in your city schools will certainly be the better for it.

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But for many young Americans, who should be returning to school, this will not be true.

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