

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES  
PACE COLLEGE  
NEW YORK CITY,  
DECEMBER 19, 1966

①

George Chapman  
"a friend at  
Chase Manhattan"

L Sixty years ago Pace College opened as an evening school in public accountancy.

① Honorary Degrees  
"earned"

L Today, as we break new ground here, it is one of America's larger institutions of higher education, granting both under graduate and graduate degrees in business administration, in education, and in the broad range of <sup>the</sup> arts and sciences.

L The story of Pace College in these sixty years has been, in a sense, the story of America --- a nation of people lifting themselves from humble beginnings toward a society of opportunity and new growth.

L The ~~men~~ and women of Pace College have ~~been~~ people who recognized, above all, that the ~~key to the~~ key to the ~~opportunity and growth was through education.~~

2

- 2 -

# Education - a national Priority!

Many of them knew that the education they would receive here was the best, and perhaps the only, chance ~~they would have for~~ they would have to break out of the society of poverty ---

and the society of poverty in America has been a large one far too often in these past sixty years.

Today we, as a nation, are dedicated to ~~expanding the~~ ~~horizon of opportunity~~ ~~poverty in America~~. We are meeting poverty with many weapons. But the most important one is education.

In the past three years alone, federal expenditures for education have more than doubled. And a whole range of new financial commitments have been made by state and, local governments, by foundations, by corporations and labor unions. — Our Pluralistic Society — Private + Public — Privately endowed college

But education needs more than money. It needs university new ideas. And it needs some courage on behalf of those who believe in it.

and Pace College Development Committee has exemplified both the new ideas and the courage

1) Pace College - a Distinguished  
 institution of Higher Education -  
 In the Center of the City - you are  
 "Where the Action is!"

x A college that relates itself to the  
Needs of the Community!

x A college that is an integral Part  
 of a massive, significant  
Redevelopment program -

(x) Pace College Represents the  
 product of "Partners in Progress"  
 for a better America.

(x) Here We see Fed, State, & Local  
 Govt in Partnership with Private  
 Industry & finance - building  
 together.

① The Immense Problems of Urban America require this Partnership - In fact, (4)  
the vast proportions of all Problems Confronting our Nation Domestic + Foreign Require this Partnership. (Public + Private)

② (1) The Ever-Widening Gap - Rich + Poor  
The War on Hunger  
~~The expansion of~~

③ At Home - The Rebuilding of our cities & neighborhoods -

~~Summation~~ The Problems of Transportation, air Pollution, Communication

④ The War on Poverty - The opening of the Doors of opportunity Require mobilization of Resources

We do not seek to build a  
Welfare State - (5)

But we do intend to create  
a society in which Opportunity  
is real, genuine, and Available.

We must have as our goal  
the enrichment of the lives of  
people through learning,  
through Training, through  
incentive, and motivation.

#

Excellence - upgrading

But it must Start Early  
in life



6

Let me be specific today and talk briefly about two programs of education which are today at the center of our war on poverty—

↳ The first is Project Head Start --- the program to help disadvantaged pre-school children enter school on equal footing with other children of their age.

↳ Many of the children in Head Start ~~have been~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~children~~ entering a stimulating, positive environment for the first time in their young lives.

~~Recently a number of studies have substantiated what we sensed all along about Head Start:~~ <sup>But</sup> ~~that~~ what is

gained there can be lost in a short period of time if the

necessary follow-through is not assured ... if the Head

~~back into a~~ Start youngster moves into a crowded, poorly-staffed,

~~poorly equipped~~, poorly-equipped and indifferent school

system that deadens the barely-kindled spark in his mind.?

Head Start under these circumstances becomes a false Start!

~~we~~, we have learned that Head Start has been ~~no~~  
more than a false start for ~~far too~~ many young children for  
whom we held high hope.

Does that mean we should abandon Project Head  
Start? Does that mean we should abandon the children?

I say we can do neither.

~~There is no question that thousands of disadvantaged  
children have gotten their first start with Head Start ...  
that they have benefited... that Head Start has given them a  
chance.~~

But ~~I say~~ what is needed is not abandonment of Head  
Start, but an injection of Head Start's high standards and  
innovations into the first few grades of elementary school. ---  
a teacher for every 15 students, for example, and the use of  
semi-professional teachers' aides.

This will take both ideas and money --- and some  
courage, too.

(4)

But I say the price will be far higher if we do not make the effort. There will be millions of disadvantaged children entering our school systems in the next few years who --- unless they are stimulated and motivated -- will surely become dropouts and, inevitably, a new burden on our society.

~~To those communities and school systems who are willing to meet the challenge, we in Washington will respond.~~

~~Harold Howe, our federal Commissioner of Education, has indicated that he intends to see that proposals for innovations and new programs at the elementary level are given rapid and favorable consideration in the year ahead.~~

~~I hope that the City of New York, that every American community will come up with such proposals, tailored to fit its specific needs in following-up Head Start.~~



9-

Head Start is preventive --- a program to help young children get a fair shake at the very first.

But what about those whom the school system --- and, indeed, our social system --- has already failed? I mean the millions of young people who have already dropped out of school --- those who are, as Dr. James Conant has described them, the "social dynamite in our streets."

Here today we are breaking ground for an addition to an important educational institution. I congratulate you.

But in the past two years, largely unnoticed, we have broken ground for over 100 comprehensive educational institutions for other young men and women.

We have created --- on the average of one a week --- educational institutions that have already enrolled and helped more than 80 thousand young people. Two years ago not one of them could have entered Pace College. But many of them could today.

L I am talking about a second educational program in our war on poverty -- the Job Corps.

As in Head Start, there have been questions and concerns expressed about the Job Corps.

L There have been dropouts. I am not surprised. More than 50 per cent of the boys and girls entering the Job Corps did so with less than a third grade reading level ... did so undernourished and underweight. More than 75 per cent of these young people had never in all their lives been to a doctor or dentist.

L There have been problems of adjustment. I am not surprised. These young people did not come from well-tended, split-level suburban sub-tracts. They came from urban and rural slums which should shame us all by their very existence.

L The important thing is they came. They volunteered. They said: "I want out of the slum. I want up. I want to

learn. I want to be somebody."

↳ Twelve years ago, as a United States Senator, I introduced legislation for development of a job corps program. I believed then that we could make a difference in the lives of young people who had been given up for lost. And I believe it now. Because it is true.

↳ The dropout rate at our Job Corps centers is less than in most American colleges. Thousands of Job Corps graduates, (including some in my office) are earning pay and self-respect in real jobs.

↳ And I believe we owe it to them, and to ourselves, to stick with it.

↳ Sixty years ago when the young man or woman came to night school at Pace College, he came, literally, alone.

↳ But today the young American reaching ahead for something better does not stand alone.

(12)

Standing with him are millions of his fellow citizens.

He stands with private industry and labor.

He stands with the churches and synagogues.

He stands with leaders of his state and his community.

And he stands with the President and Vice President of the United States, <sup>of the Congress, all</sup> -- both of whom are committed, without reservation, to winning the war against poverty...against

ignorance...against economic and social injustice in this

~~to gain a free nation.~~ *to achieving the NEW DAY of opportunity for all.*

*L* We still have a long way to go. ~~But I think it would be well today to also look for a moment where we've been.~~

*L* Over the past three years, we have created in our nation -- through our unparalleled economic expansion -- some 5 and a half million new jobs.

During the same period, our national government

alone -- not to mention what has been done in the private sector and by states and localities -- has expanded programs for health, education and training, and direct cash benefits, for Americans below the poverty line by some 9.3 billion dollars.

In 1960, identifying those federal funds going to Americans living in poverty, we find some 9.9 billion dollars.

In 1963, through the efforts and beginnings of programs directed and conceived by President Kennedy, this level had risen to 12.9 billion dollars.

In the current fiscal year -- 1967 -- under the enactments of the last Congress and through the broad programs of the war on poverty, we are channeling 22.3 billion dollars into programs to help the poor lift themselves free of poverty.



113

There will be setbacks. There will be disappointments and even failures as we move ahead toward our goal.

But we stand committed.

In the days ahead, and I have no doubt about it, we shall live to see in this country the fulfillment of the dream we share -- the dream the American author Thomas Wolfe described, writing in the depths of the Great Depression:

"To every man his chance, to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity. To every man the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever things his manhood and his vision can combine to make him. This... is the promise of America."

# # # # #

Dr Mortola - Mayor Lindsay

George Champion - Lt Gov Wilson

Reverend Clergy - Judge Keating

Chairman Samuel Miller (Chr Bd + trustees  
Pacific College)

##  
✓ Lindsay - Welcome - Heat!

✓ Grants, Viking Red Skins - Johnson fault - Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

✓ my Enforcements <sup>(Grants)</sup> - No - Giving a going concern!

*Master  
Copy*

REMARKS  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY  
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES  
PACE COLLEGE  
NEW YORK CITY,  
DECEMBER 19, 1966

Sixty years ago Pace College opened as an evening school in public accountancy.

Today, as we break new ground here, it is one of America's larger institutions of higher education, granting both undergraduate and graduate degrees in business administration, in education, and in the broad range of arts and sciences.

The story of Pace College in these sixty years has been, in a sense, the story of America --- a nation of people lifting themselves from humble beginnings toward a society of opportunity and new growth.

The men and women of Pace College have been people who recognized, above all, that the way to opportunity and growth was through education.

Many of them knew that the education they would receive here was the best, and perhaps the only, chance they would have to break out of the society of poverty --- and the society of poverty in America has been a large one far too often in these past sixty years.

Today we, as a nation, are dedicated to ending poverty in America. We are meeting poverty with many weapons. But the most important one is education.

In the past three years alone, federal expenditures for education have more than doubled. And a whole range of new financial commitments have been made by state and local governments, by foundations, by corporations and labor unions.

But education needs more than money. It needs new ideas. And it needs some courage on behalf of those who believe in it.

We have, rather, men and women believing deeply in their respective faiths, yet great enough in spirit to comprehend how much and how vital is that which unites them.

And it is the kind of faith that finds expression not only in words but in deeds -- as, indeed, the noblest spirits of every faith have always demanded of us.

Our faith in America -- Protestant, Catholic and Jewish -- is the kind of faith expressed in St. Francis' prayer:

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hate, may I bring love; where offence may I bring pardon; may I bring union in place of discord; truth where once there was doubt; hope, for despair; light where was darkness; joy to replace sadness. Make me not to so crave to be loved as to love. Help me to learn that in giving I may receive; in forgetting self I may find life eternal."



Yes, we have learned that Head Start has been no more than a false start for far too many young children for whom we held high hope.

Does that mean we should abandon Project Head Start? Does that mean we should abandon the children?

I say we can do neither.

There is no question that thousands of disadvantaged children have gotten their first start with Head Start ... that they have benefited...that Head Start has given them a chance.

I say what is needed is not abandonment of Head Start, but an injection of Head Start's high standards and innovations into the first few grades of elementary school.--- a teacher for every 15 students, for example, and the use of semi-professional teachers' aides.

This will take both ideas and money --- and some courage, too.

They are trying to find ways to make life happy and useful and filled with the blessings of peace.

For our generation is determined to pass on to our children better advantages than the ones we possessed. We are trying, in the words of Pope Paul, to "create a world that is more human by promoting the common good of all."

We know that progress does not come quickly or easily. Men hungered for the Four Freedoms long before President Roosevelt enunciated them in January, 1941. In fact, the quest to attain fundamental human rights goes back far beyond our own century, into the distant past.

Why are these rights so difficult to attain? The reason is obvious: Freedom threatens those who cling to the status quo or the need for retaining entrenched power ... and those unwilling to create progress or expand the horizons of human opportunity.

Head Start is preventive --- a program to help young children get a fair shake at the very first.

But what about those whom the school system --- and, indeed, our social system --- has already failed? I mean the millions of young people who have already dropped out of school --- those who are, as Dr. James Conant has described them, the "social dynamite in our streets."

Here today we are breaking ground for an addition to an important educational institution. I congratulate you.

But in the past two years, largely unnoticed, we have broken ground for over 100 comprehensive educational institutions for other young men and women.

We have created --- on the average of one a week --- educational institutions that have already enrolled and helped more than 80 thousand young people. Two years ago not one of them could have entered Pace College. But many of them could today.



I am talking about a second educational program in our war on poverty -- the Job Corps.

As in Head Start, there have been questions and concerns expressed about the Job Corps.

There have been dropouts. I am not surprised. More than 50 per cent of the boys and girls entering the Job Corps did so with less than a third grade reading level ... did so undernourished and underweight. More than 75 per cent of these young people had never in all their lives been to a doctor or dentist.

There have been problems of adjustment. I am not surprised. These young people did not come from well-tended, split-level suburban sub-tracts. They came from urban and rural slums which should shame us all by their very existence.

The important thing is they came. They volunteered. They said: "I want out of the slum. I want up. I want to

learn. I want to be somebody."

Twelve years ago, as a United States Senator, I introduced legislation for development of a job corps program. I believed then that we could make a difference in the lives of young people who had been given up for lost. And I believe it now. Because it is true.

The dropout rate at our Job Corps centers is less than in most American colleges. Thousands of Job Corps graduates, (including some in my office) are earning pay and self-respect in real jobs.

g And I believe we owe it to them, and to ourselves, to stick with it.

Sixty years ago when the young man or woman came to night school at Pace College, he came, literally, alone.

But today the young American reaching ahead for something better does not stand alone.



not just for food and fiber, as in the past, but also for answers as to how they can do more to feed and clothe themselves.

We mean, through the new Food for Freedom program, to help them find those answers. And we are dedicated to leading other food-producing and developed nations in a greater common effort by all of us.

If we do not find the answers...if we do not make the effort, I cannot have much hope either for world peace or the future of the human family.

The hungry nations need our food. They need our know-how and assistance. They need our faith in them.

And we must offer all these things.

President Roosevelt would have been proud of Food for Freedom. This program embodies the legacy he left to us of bold idealism, courage and responsibility in meeting our obligations to one another and to the rest of the world.

He taught us that to be a great people we must do what we can to make life useful and productive not for ourselves alone, but for those millions on earth who need our help.

Yes, realization of the Four Freedoms is finally in sight in America.

And there is a Fifth Freedom which urgently cries for realization all over the world.

We are not complacent. We do not aspire to be an island of contentment in the midst of a stormy sea.

Ahead of us lies the ageless dream of man -- a dream common to both the cultures of Italy and of America: to live a useful and productive life in freedom and dignity.

In closing, I give you a challenge written in his own hand by Franklin Roosevelt, on April 12, 1945, at his desk in Warm Springs, Georgia -- for an address he was never to deliver.

- II -

His final message to us all was this:

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow  
will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with  
strong and active faith."

# # # # #

To save  
[Transcript]

ADDRESS BY  
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY  
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES  
PACE COLLEGE  
DECEMBER 19, 1966



ADDRESS BY HUBERT HUMPHREY

Thank you very much. Thank you very much Mr. Champion. I'll get back to you in a moment. And Dr. Mortola(?) and Mayor Lindsay, and I'll get back to you in a moment. (LAUGHTER) And Governor Wilson and my good friend Judge Keating(?), Reverend clergy, members of the distinguished faculty of Pace College, and all of its many friends that are gathered here today.

First may I comment a bit on the introduction that was given to me by a very great American and a fine citizen and friend, Mr. George Champion. It is true, George, that I was born in a rather small village, but I would like to have you know that at the tender age of 4 I moved into a community that had 666 - 666 people before the 6 Humphreys arrived, and that puts a normal Illinois where it belongs.

(LAUGHTER)

May I say further that I was delighted to know that I was in the company of such distinguished honorary degree recipients. I noticed the Mayor and myself received honorary degrees in civil law; Mr. Miller of course an honorary degree of the law. I don't know how we separate those but I guess one takes blame for what happens and the other gets credit



for what happens. (LAUGHTER)

And then I noticed that Mr. Champion was given a degree in the humane letters. I want the banker to understand that first word--humane. (LAUGHTER) But Mr. Mayor, no matter what you may say to me or how you may receive me, I do know I have a friend at Chase Manhattan (LAUGHTER) (APPLAUSE). And I think now it's time to let you in on the secret, I have a friend over at the City Hall too, and the Mayor, he has a friend down at the Vice President's office in Washington. And I think a great deal (APPLAUSE) of him.

But there are one or two things I want to clear up (LAUGHTER) - I want Dr. Mortolo and the board of trustees to know that I am not here to endorse Pace College; I am here to join a going concern. And there's a great deal of difference. I've been endorsing hopefuls long enough.

(LAUGHTER) (APPLAUSE)

I'm about ready to sign up any time now. I was here yesterday afternoon and it was another one of those days, and I'm not going to blame it on President Johnson as some people would, but yesterday the Vikings were defeated in Chicago; the Redskins were defeated by Philadelphia; and the Giants were defeated by Dallas. I came here to endorse the Giants. (LAUGHTER) I don't want that to get to Texas. This is strictly off the record. It was a bad day all the way around. Thank goodness that I could be here on such a very pleasant

day as this.

Dr. Mortolo, I was simply delighted to see the enthusiastic reception that you had when you came to the podium. It isn't every president that gets that kind of reception (LAUGHTER) and I was simply delighted to see the kind of friendly reception that the Lt. Governor received. It isn't every vice president that gets that kind of reception. (LAUGHTER) I'm beginning to like New York better every day. (APPLAUSE)

But most of all I enjoy being at an occasion where the prime purpose is to celebrate an achievement or an accomplishment in education. I am, in fact, a refugee from the classroom, and I might tell you that nothing bolsters my spirits more these days than receiving honorary degrees. Now there are two kinds of degrees of course - earned and honorary, and I can tell all of my friends out here it's easier to get the honorary degrees. But I come back to my theme, as a former teacher I want Dr. Mortolo to know that I have been trying to keep my credentials in order, in light of the precarious nature of elective politics I (LAUGHTER) and in light of what I read, Dr. Martolo, as this great college expands do not forget your friend the vice president. (LAUGHTER) (APPLAUSE)

But now let me say just a few words about this occasion. It's of course so well known but it bears some

repetition. Sixty years ago this college opened as an evening school in public accounting, or accountancy. Today, look where you are. Today as we break new ground, it is truly one of America's larger institutions of higher education, granting both undergraduate and graduate degrees in business administration, education, and the broad range of the arts and the sciences. And its theme is the theme of excellence, which of course is the least that we can settle for in our country today.

The story of Pace College in these 60 years of its activity has been in a sense the story of America. It's a nation of people lifting themselves from humble beginnings towards a society of opportunity and new growth. Now that's what Pace has symbolized, and I submit that it has been in Pace, and maybe indeed has set the pace for the nation. The men and the women of Pace College have recognized above all that the key to the door of opportunity and growth is education. And I take as my theme today this marvelous word in the English language -- opportunity. And I submit that education and opportunity are partners, and they are inevitable associates.

Education in this nation is a national priority. It has been throughout the history of our republic. America has been known first for its great private institutions of education, and then for its unequalled, unexcelled program of

public education. In the past 3 years alone, federal expenditures for education have more than doubled, and the wisest investment that your government will ever make. And a whole range of new financial commitments have been made by state and local governments in unprecedented proportions, and by foundations, and by the great business corporations and trade unions. And this is as it should be.

As has been noted from this platform, we in America, are proud of the fact that we have both public and private institutions of higher learning. This is a pluralistic society and let us keep it that way. We want no monolith, and we want no society in which there is one overwhelming dominating force. And the privately endowed school, the privately endowed college is central to keeping this nation of ours one in which freedom of choice is more than a theory, and indeed is a living fact.

But may I add that education needs more than money. It needs you, the people; it needs new ideas; and it needs courage, yes some daring on behalf of those who believe in it. I happen to feel that the Pace College development committee has exemplified both this dedication to new ideas and the courage to believe in those ideals.

Now just a few more words about Pace as I see it. Pace College is where it ought to be. It's a downtown institution of higher education. It's in the center of the city.



In other words it's where the action is, and that's where a college and a university ought to be located. Now there are differences of philosophy, of description of what a college or university should be. I am one that believe a university and a college ought to be the center of life. It ought to be more than an island of meditation. It ought to be a center of social action. The great universities of our land today can do much to give of their expertise, to give of their competence, their ability, to the solution of the staggering social, economic, and political problems that confront us.

And I know of no better way for a university to equip itself, or a college to equip itself to do this job of being on the job, working for the people, than to be in the center of a great metropolitan area, where it feels the pulsating activity of the life of the people. A college such as Pace is an integral part of a massive significant redevelopment program. Mr. Mayor I have some idea of the dreams which you have for your great city, and I sense here that we are beginning to understand here in New York and throughout the nation that we need to not only rebuild cities in terms of housing or in terms of commercial structure, but we need to rebuild sections of our cities' neighborhoods and sometimes total cities, as integrated, fully working communities where people can not only live and sleep and play,

but where they can work and worship and where they can be educated and enjoy the refreshment of recreation and leisure.

Pace College to me represents the product of what this nation must have in the days ahead; the product of cooperation; the product of partners in progress for a better America. Because here we see federal, state and local government working in partnership with private industry and finance, building together, and finding that there's room enough for all of us. In fact without all of us working together, little or nothing can be accomplished. The immense problems of urban America, the immense problems of any part of America today, require this partnership. It can be said without fear of contradiction that government alone, even as big and as powerful as it is, stands helpless before the staggering problems that face this republic.

And it can be said with equal candor that private industry alone in many instances stands helpless as it faces the vast changes that overwhelm us. But together, public and private, mobilizing the resources of our people and our nation, without in any way losing our identity, without in any ways losing our individual initiative, we can overcome any problem - because we have the resources if we have the will. At least, that is my view of it.

Now it is my feeling that this concept of working partnership is needed not only for education as it is, but



for problems that confront us on the international scene as well as the domestic. There is no way, my dear friends, to close the every widening gap between the rich and the poor nations of the world by government alone. Even by industry alone. But together, working together, nationally, internationally, privately - there is hope. And surely there is no way to win the war on hunger by merely charity and gifts, but working together, governments and people, private industry and governments- I think that war can be won.

And may I say there is little or no way that I know to overcome the staggering problems of communication, transportation, air pollution, just to mention a few, the problems of education - without this same spirit of teamwork at work. Not as a theory but as a fact. The war on poverty that we hear so much about, will be a dismal failure, it will indeed be a defeat if it becomes only the enterprise of government. It must belong to all of us if we are to succeed.

What we are talking about in other words is mobilizing the great resources of a free people without losing our freedom; of joining together in a compact without becoming a monolith; we are talking about preserving a pleuralistic society, invigorating it, making it come alive, and overcoming the problems that challenge it. Now I said that I wanted to have as my theme - opportunity, and that is it.

Because we do not seek to build in this land of ours a welfare state. I hope not. Because to do so would be to stultify progress and I think to insult human dignity.

What we seek above all is to build conditions that afford a state of opportunity for every man, woman and child, regardless of name, background, ethnic origin or nationality. We seek to open up the portals of progress, to remove the impediments, and to permit people to revitalize their own lives. Yes, with the help of some others, but to do it essentially by themselves.

Now we must therefore have as our goal the enrichment of the lives of people through learning, through training, through incentive, and through motivation. We must do this by adhering to the standard of excellence of upgrading human resources. My fellow Americans, never did a world depend upon so few to do so much as it does today in its dependence upon the American people to provide leadership and guidance in these troubled and difficult times. And this is why I believe that in our emphasis upon education, we are truly building the strength of this republic.

We are building the strength of a people by including within this great mainstream of American life, more and more people who for too long have been excluded. Let me just cite two examples in the field of education, and one of them may seem very much out of place here. It's Project

Headstart, for example, for our youngsters. The program that helps disadvantaged preschool children to enter school on an equal footing with other children of their age. Now many of the children in the Headstart programs are entering for the first time in their lives, a stimulating, positive environment; they are coming out of literally darkness into sunlight; they are coming out of the dismal caverns and caves of poverty into the first opportunity of a wholesome opportunity.

But what is gained there in that little short experience of Headstart can be lost in a short time if the necessary followthrough is not assured. And this of course means helping to rebuild family life. It means rebuilding neighborhoods and communities but it also means that the Headstart youngster must not move back into a crowded, poorly staffed, poorly equipped and indifferent school system that deadens the barely kindled spark in his ~~xx~~ mind.

Headstart under those circumstances becomes a false start, a hoax and a fraud, and we have no right to perpetrate such a thing upon the young. What is needed is not the abandonment though of Headstart with its problems, but an injection of Headstart's high standards and innovations in the first grades of the elementary school. Higher education, Dr. Mortolo could tell you, and any other teacher could tell you, depends in a very large measure on the quality



of elementary and secondary education. You cannot build institutions of higher learning worthy of scholarship unless those who enter these institutions are prepared for the challenge of scholarship.

And all of this takes both ideas and money, and it takes a little courage too. But I say the price will be far higher if we do not make the effort and make it now. There will be millions of disadvantaged youngsters entering our school systems in the next few years, who unless they are stimulated, unless they are motivated by good teachers and new teaching methods and good schools, will surely become dropouts, and inevitably a new burden on every city on our whole society.

Headstart is preventing - a program to help young children get a fair shake at the very first. But what about those whom the school system and indeed our social system has already failed? What about those who have dropped out along the way, and that remain the poor earners, accused of being the poor learners, the ~~p~~tax eaters rather than the tax payers. What about the millions of young people, and that's a fact - millions, who have already dropped out of school. Those who are as Dr. James Conant has described them, the social dynamite in our streets, and I need not spell that out. We know what we mean.

Well here today we are breaking ground for an addition

to an important educational institution and congratulations of course are in order. And I want to join amongst those who extend those good wishes. But in the past two years, my fellow Americans, largely unnoticed we have broken ground for 100 - yes over 100 comprehensive educational institutions for other young men and women. Not higher education necessarily, but important educational institutions. We have created on the average of once a week, educational institutions that <sup>have</sup> ~~that~~ already enrolled and helped more than 80,000 young people.

Two years ago not one of them could have entered Pace College, but today many of them can. I'm talking about very special second educational program in our effort to open the doors of opportunity, in our effort to win a war on the ancient scourge of poverty. I speak of the Job Corps Center, just as in Headstart, there've been a lot of questions and concerns expressed about the Job Corps. There have been dropouts. There have been failures. But I'm not at all surprised because more than 50% of the boys and girls entering Job Corps, American citizens too, did so with less than a third grade reading level.

Did so undernourished, underweight, frequently the victim of both mental and physical disease. More than 75% of these young people - the 80,000 that I speak of - had never in all their lives even seen a doctor, or been to a



dentist. And there have been serious problems of adjustment. But I'm not surprised. These young people did not come from the well tended, split level suburban subtracts(?). they didn't have the brake that some of us have. They came from urban and rural slums, which should shame us all by their very existence.

But the important thing is not the dismal part of it. The important thing is they came. They came and they volunteered and they said, I want to get out of the slum. I want to learn. I want to be somebody. And my fellow Americans, I've talked to these young people by the hundreds and I have seen grown young men weep as they have told me, I want to be somebody. Twelve years ago, as a United States senator, I was privileged to introduce legislation that provided for the development of a Job Corp program. It took a long time to get it. I believed them that we could make a difference in the lives of our young people who had been given up as lost.

And I believe it now. I believe it more than I ever did because I know it is true. And I know that every life that is rehabilitated, I know that every boy and girl that is reclaimed from despair and deprivation, is not only a great moral victory, is not only ~~an~~ a great victory for education, but it's a victory for this nation, for its economy. It's a victory may I say for the person. The dropout

rate in our Job Corps centers, get this, is less than in our American colleges. Thousands of Job Corps graduates including some who work in my own office, are for the first time in their lives earning pay and engaged in self respecting real jobs.

And I believe we owe it to them and to ourselves to stick with it, and not to retreat from the field of battle. Sixty years ago when the young men and women came to night school at Pace College, they came alone - literally alone. But today the young American reaching ahead and reaching out for something better, he does not stand alone. Standing with him are millions of his fellow citizens. He stands with private industry and labor; he stands with churches and synagogues; he stands with leaders of his state, of his city and of his community; he stands with the president and the vice president and the Congress.

And he stands with people who are committed without reservation to winning this opportunity, to winning this war against poverty, ignorance and injustice. Now we still have a long way to go and there will be setbacks, and there will be disappointments. I am not a sentimentalist that believes there are instant remedies for ancient ills, but I do believe that we can do what we want to do if we will to do it. Just as you have made up your mind to do what you are doing here.

Above all, what the world needs to know and what America needs to know, is that we are committed to the proposition of equal opportunity. And in the days ahead, I have no doubt about it, that we shall live to see in this country the fulfillment of the dream that we share - the dream that the American author Thomas Wolfe described, writing in the depths of the Great Depression. The dream which I think he described so beautifully that tells the story of what has made America great. And here are his words as I leave you:

"To every man his chance. To every man regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity. To every man the right to live and to work; to be himself; and to become whatever things his manhood and his vision ~~may~~ can ~~be~~ combine to make him." This is the promise of America. What greater promise, I ask you, could a people ever have? than the promise of an opportunity to live a full and rewarding life.

Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

END OF HUMPHREY SPEECH



# Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)