

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Ruston, Louisiana

January 7, 1972

Today is the first day of the rest of your lives.

All of you here today must begin to think about where we are going as a nation and as a people.

And you must act. Today, as perhaps never before in the history of America, the future can and must be influenced by the Commitment and involvement of youth now.

With the adoption of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, yours is the first generation of youth granted the right to vote -- the most crucial right in American democracy.

But will you exercise that right?

A recent article in the Washington Evening Star surveyed the potential of the college student vote across the nation, and came to some disturbing conclusions. It noted widespread student apathy. It projected a turnout in New Hampshire at the polls this March of only 25 percent of the 85,000 new eligible young voters there.

But the whole point of the student vote movement across America is to disprove the popular thesis of the political pundits that the young will make little difference in the 1972 election results.

If you think you can abstain from voting, and still be heard, you are wrong. Nothing will fall into your laps without organizing your voting power to fight for what you think should be done now in America. To cop out is to give up. To cop out is to turn power over to others.

None of us can be satisfied with the outlook for the future. None of us can continue to accept the inaction, the ivory tower bureaucratic unconcern, or the stumbling from crisis to crisis, or the repeated vetoes of human welfare legislation, or the process of addressing crucial issues through press releases promising that better days are ahead, that characterize the present Administration in Washington.

We can change things!

We can establish an American political process that will respond to your sense of commitment, to change, and to greater political participation by all Americans.

But as other groups have learned, you have to work to be able to participate effectively.

I have been determined that youth should be able to work within the American political system; that they should use the system; and that they should change the system to make it more responsive to the needs of people for a better life, for a clean environment, and for a world of peace.

That is why I introduced the Interns for Political Leadership Act, passed by the Senate last year. Under this program, college students can for the first time be directly involved in the decisions and operations at all levels of government, through working in positions of responsibility.

And that is also why I have been working to reform our election laws to greatly simplify voter registration procedures. We should not allow a young man or woman's status as a college student to bar his or her registration and voting in the local community.

And as an original sponsor of the National Voter Registration Act, presently before the Senate and opposed by the Nixon Administration, I have been deeply concerned that we are in danger of becoming a government of the minority for the majority.

Registration procedures now in effect deny millions of poor Americans of all races the opportunity to share in governing the land in which they live. This wrong must be corrected!

Constructive change can and must take place in enabling every citizen to exercise the right to vote. That has been demonstrated in Louisiana, the first state to abolish the poll tax. But will the people of Louisiana respond? Can you be satisfied with a voter turnout of 47.9 percent in 1964 and 54.5 percent in 1968?

If you want a government that cares about the needs of people, then you have to care. You must be informed about the issues, you must draft your own agenda of priorities and work to get it adopted -- in short, you must get involved.

Almost every major problem we are working on in Washington is also laid right at your doorstep here in Louisiana. Let me cite a few examples.

The nation has finally awakened to the critical problems confronting the 20 million of our citizens who are aged 65 and older. One out of 4 older Americans lives in poverty. But did you know that 70 percent of the elderly in the state depend on some form of relief?

And because the national Administration waited until the last minute to do something about our staggering economy, over 5 million Americans are out of work today, while the cost of living continues to rise. The full impact of this unconscionable delay is felt right here. In 1969, Louisiana paid \$42 million in state unemployment insurance benefits to 70,000 people.

Across the nation, local school boards and institutions of higher education are exhausting their financial resources as expenses continue to mount. By 1950, education had become the most important enterprise in Louisiana. Even though the free-school system was not developed until 1910, Louisiana was the first state to provide free textbooks and free lunches for elementary-school students. And it has become a major center for the pursuit of advanced knowledge, with the establishment of some 23 institutions of higher education.

But all this costs, and it costs heavily. You and your families have felt the impact of that price.

I have called for a major program of direct federal assistance to local school districts. I firmly believe we must teiple the current level of federal aid to education, because it constitutes one of our most valuable national resources.

And I am an original sponsor of what can prove to be historic legislation, providing for a substantial increase in direct federal financial help to college students, with counterpart cost-of-instruction dollars channeled to the institutions of their choice.

But the final enactment of this bill has been delayed by objections from the White House. And I have been astonished by the recent response of U.S. Commissioner of Education Sidney Marland that the crisis of funding in our local schools constitutes a "momentary setback" and that the way to live with tight school budgets is to "increase productivity." Does he even know what is happening across America? Does this Administration really care about assuring an equal opportunity for every child and young person in America to obtain a quality education?

Let me cite one further major problem whose solution demands a totally new national policy. The population of Louisiana rose 11.9 percent over the last decade, to 3.6 million. But in the last five years alone, "for sale" signs have ben posted on over 8,000 farms in this state. The combined problems of rural outmigration and urban congestion have reached a critical state across America. Yet despite a clear mandate from Congress, we still have no national growth policy of balanced urban and rural development represented by the Nixon Administration.

I have introduced a comprehensive program to launch an aggressive policy to end the despair that looms over both the abandoned farm and the deteriorating urban neighborhood. It

is a program to establish the right of all our people to choose where they will live and work.

The National Domestic Development Bank Act and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, which I have authored, provide for the creation of major new sources of financing for city, town, and economic projects across the nation.

They will enable the rural parish to flourish with major new economic development opportunities.

They will provide the city a firm guarantee of federal help to improve public facilities; build new schools, housing, and hospitals; create parklands; and control air and water pollution.

And under this nationwide program, the people of a particular area will be able to effectively participate in planning and building for the future.

But the central point I am making by these examples is that the decade of the '70's demands totally new national policies to meet the critical concerns of our people. No longer can we be a growing nation without a national policy to govern our growth -- without a progressive, effective social policy; a population policy; a health care policy; an energy resources policy; an educational policy; a communications policy, or a major financing policy.

What you and I do now determines what will happen tomorrow.

If we want clean air, we must begin to act now.

If we want better health care for all Americans, we must act now.

If we want better education, we must act now.

If we want to give millions of Americans the opportunity for hope and self-fulfillment in their lives, we must act now.

If we want to end the human sacrifice in Southeast Asia, the wanton expenditures, now is the time to end American involvement. I consider the recent escalation of the bombing in Vietnam an unconscionable extension of the conflict. I have called on the President to halt the bombing and to arrange an extended period of cease-fire to last for at least the duration of the Christmas-Tet holidays -- through February 15th.

Such an extended truce offers a way to save lives and promote peace at a time when this nation and all of Southeast Asia desperately need peace.

Now is the time to re-establish our leadership in the world as a nation determined to advance the cause of peace. Now is the time to halt the diversion of national resources into the machinery of war, and to dedicate them to the meeting of critical human needs. Now is the time to heal the deep wounds of division in America over this war.

I have pledged to work to carry through this agenda for action at home and abroad, now. I ask you now to join me in this vital work. The job can and must be done, if the tomorrows of this great land are to be days of promise and hope, for all Americans.

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President Dr F. F. Taylor

LSU

Kevin Jones, Chs
 Ronnie Kathy - Pres of Student
 Body
 (Infantry class)

the
 Tonk

Ed + Marys - in monroe (Cultural Center)

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

Basketball Team - Bulldogs
 Tech's Bulldogs Coach
 Scotty Robertson
 * LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY -

Bulldogs
 Southland Conference
 (had coach for years)
 Joe & Ag 25th

1 other in last note RUSTON, LOUISIANA

JANUARY 7, 1972

④ Southern
 Mississippi
 last note

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TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIVES.

ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY MUST BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT WHERE
WE ARE GOING AS A NATION AND AS A PEOPLE.

AND YOU MUST ACT. TODAY, AS PERHAPS NEVER BEFORE IN THE
HISTORY OF AMERICA, THE FUTURE CAN AND MUST BE INFLUENCED BY
THE COMMITMENT AND INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH NOW.

WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE 26TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION,
YOURS IS THE FIRST GENERATION OF YOUTH GRANTED THE RIGHT TO VOTE --
THE MOST CRUCIAL RIGHT IN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

BUT WILL YOU EXERCISE THAT RIGHT?

A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR SURVEYED
THE POTENTIAL OF THE COLLEGE STUDENT VOTE ACROSS THE NATION,
AND CAME TO SOME DISTURBING CONCLUSIONS.

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IT NOTED WIDESPREAD STUDENT APATHY. IT PROJECTED A TURNOUT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AT THE POLLS THIS MARCH OF ONLY 25 PERCENT OF THE 85,000 NEW ELIGIBLE YOUNG VOTERS THERE.

BUT THE WHOLE POINT OF THE STUDENT VOTE MOVEMENT ACROSS AMERICA IS TO DISPROVE THE POPULAR THESIS OF THE POLITICAL PUNDITS THAT THE YOUNG WILL MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN THE 1972 ELECTION RESULTS.

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN ABSTAIN FROM VOTING, AND STILL BE HEARD, YOU ARE WRONG. NOTHING WILL FALL INTO YOUR LAPS WITHOUT ORGANIZING YOUR VOTING POWER TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU THINK SHOULD BE DONE NOW IN AMERICA. TO COP OUT IS TO GIVE UP. TO COP OUT IS TO TURN POWER OVER TO OTHERS.

NONE OF US CAN BE SATISFIED WITH THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.

NONE OF US CAN CONTINUE TO ACCEPT THE INACTION, THE IVORY

TOWER OF BUREAUCRATIC UNCONCERN, OR THE STUMBLING FROM CRISIS TO

CRISIS, OR THE REPEATED VETOES OF HUMAN WELFARE LEGISLATION,

OR THE PROCESS OF ADDRESSING CRUCIAL ISSUES THROUGH PRESS

RELEASES PROMISING THAT BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD, THAT CHARACTERIZE

THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON.

WE CAN CHANGE THINGS!

WE CAN ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS THAT WILL

RESPOND TO YOUR SENSE OF COMMITMENT, TO CHANGE, AND TO GREATER

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY ALL AMERICANS.

BUT AS OTHER GROUPS HAVE LEARNED, YOU HAVE TO WORK TO BE

ABLE TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY.

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I HAVE BEEN DETERMINED THAT YOUTH SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK WITHIN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM; THAT THEY SHOULD USE THE SYSTEM; AND THAT THEY SHOULD CHANGE THE SYSTEM TO MAKE IT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE FOR A BETTER LIFE, FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND FOR A WORLD OF PEACE.

THAT IS WHY I INTRODUCED THE INTERNS FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ACT, PASSED BY THE SENATE LAST YEAR. UNDER THIS PROGRAM, COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN FOR THE FIRST TIME BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE DECISIONS AND OPERATIONS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, THROUGH WORKING IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

AND THAT IS ALSO WHY I HAVE BEEN WORKING TO REFORM OUR ELECTION LAWS TO GREATLY SIMPLIFY VOTER REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.

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WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW A YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN'S STATUS AS A COLLEGE STUDENT TO BAR HIS OR HER REGISTRATION AND VOTING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

AND AS AN ORIGINAL SPONSOR OF THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT, PRESENTLY BEFORE THE SENATE AND OPPOSED BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT WE ARE IN DANGER OF BECOMING A GOVERNMENT OF THE MINORITY FOR THE MAJORITY. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES NOW IN EFFECT DENY MILLIONS OF POOR AMERICANS OF ALL RACES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN GOVERNING THE LAND IN WHICH THEY LIVE. THIS WRONG MUST BE CORRECTED!

CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE CAN AND MUST TAKE PLACE IN ENABLING EVERY CITIZEN TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

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THAT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED IN LOUISIANA, THE FIRST STATE TO
ABOLISH THE POLL TAX. BUT WILL THE PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA RESPOND?
CAN YOU BE SATISFIED WITH A VOTER TURNOUT OF 47.9 PERCENT IN
1964 AND 54.5 PERCENT IN 1968?

IF YOU WANT A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES ABOUT THE NEEDS OF
PEOPLE, THEN YOU HAVE TO CARE. YOU MUST BE INFORMED ABOUT THE
ISSUES, YOU MUST DRAFT YOUR OWN AGENDA OF PRIORITIES AND WORK
TO GET IT ADOPTED -- IN SHORT, YOU MUST GET INVOLVED.

ALMOST EVERY MAJOR PROBLEM WE ARE WORKING ON IN WASHINGTON
IS ALSO LAID RIGHT AT YOUR DOORSTEP HERE IN LOUISIANA. LET ME
CITE A FEW EXAMPLES.

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THE NATION HAS FINALLY AWAKENED TO THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS
CONFRONTING THE 20 MILLION OF OUR CITIZENS WHO ARE AGED 65
AND OLDER. ONE OUT OF 4 OLDER AMERICANS LIVES IN POVERTY. BUT
DID YOU KNOW THAT 70 PERCENT OF THE ELDERLY IN THIS STATE
DEPEND ON SOME FORM OF RELIEF?

AND BECAUSE THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION WAITED UNTIL THE
LAST MINUTE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT OUR STAGGERING ECONOMY, OVER
5 MILLION AMERICANS ARE OUT OF WORK TODAY, WHILE THE COST OF
LIVING CONTINUES TO RISE. THE FULL IMPACT OF THIS UNCONSCIONABLE
DELAY IS FELT RIGHT HERE. IN 1969, LOUISIANA PAID \$42 MILLION IN
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS TO 70,000 PEOPLE.

ACROSS THE NATION, LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE EXHAUSTING THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES AS EXPENSES CONTINUE TO MOUNT. BY 1950, EDUCATION HAD BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT ENTERPRISE IN LOUISIANA. EVEN THOUGH THE FREE-SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS NOT DEVELOPED HERE UNTIL 1910, LOUISIANA HAS THE FIRST STATE TO PROVIDE FREE TEXTBOOKS AND FREE LUNCHES FOR ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS. AND IT HAS BECOME A MAJOR CENTER FOR THE PURSUIT OF ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE, WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME 23 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

BUT ALL THIS COSTS, AND IT COSTS HEAVILY. YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES HAVE FELT THE IMPACT OF THAT PRICE.

I HAVE CALLED FOR A MAJOR PROGRAM OF DIRECT FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS. I FIRMLY BELIEVE WE MUST TRIPLE THE CURRENT LEVEL OF FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION, BECAUSE IT CONSTITUTES ONE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE NATIONAL RESOURCES.

AND I AM AN ORIGINAL SPONSOR OF WHAT CAN PROVE TO BE HISTORIC LEGISLATION, PROVIDING FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN DIRECT FEDERAL FINANCIAL HELP TO COLLEGE STUDENTS, WITH COUNTER-PART COST-OF-INSTRUCTION DOLLARS CHANNELED TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF THEIR CHOICE.

BUT THE FINAL ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL HAS BEEN DELAYED BY OBJECTIONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

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AND I HAVE BEEN ASTONISHED BY THE RECENT RESPONSE OF U.S.

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SIDNEY MARLAND THAT THE CRISIS OF

FUNDING IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS CONSTITUTES A "MOMENTARY SETBACK"

AND THAT THE WAY TO LIVE WITH TIGHT SCHOOL BUDGETS IS TO

"INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY." DOES HE EVEN KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING

ACROSS AMERICA? DOES THIS ADMINISTRATION REALLY CARE ABOUT

ASSURING AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON

IN AMERICA TO OBTAIN A QUALITY EDUCATION?

LET ME CITE ONE FURTHER MAJOR PROBLEM WHOSE SOLUTION DEMANDS

A TOTALLY NEW NATIONAL POLICY. THE POPULATION OF LOUISIANA

ROSE 11.9 PERCENT OVER THE LAST DECADE, TO 3.6 MILLION.

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BUT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS ALONE, "FOR SALE" SIGNS HAVE BEN POSTED ON OVER 8,000 FARMS IN THIS STATE. THE COMBINED PROBLEMS OF RURAL OUTMIGRATION AND URBAN CONGESTION HAVE REACHED A CRITICAL STATE ACROSS AMERICA. YET DESPITE A CLEAR MANDATE FROM CONGRESS, WE STILL HAVE NO NATIONAL GROWTH POLICY OF BALANCED URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTED BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

I HAVE INTRODUCED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO LAUNCH AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY TO END THE DESPAIR THAT LOOMS OVER BOTH THE ABANDONED FARM AND THE DETERIORATING URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD. IT IS A PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH THE RIGHT OF ALL OUR PEOPLE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY WILL LIVE AND WORK.

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THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT BANK ACT AND THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT, WHICH I HAVE AUTHORED, PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF MAJOR NEW SOURCES OF FINANCING FOR CITY, TOWN, AND ECONOMIC PROJECTS ACROSS THE NATION.

THEY WILL ENABLE THE RURAL PARISH TO FLOURISH WITH MAJOR NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

THEY WILL PROVIDE THE CITY A FIRM GUARANTEE OF FEDERAL HELP TO IMPROVE PUBLIC FACILITIES; BUILD NEW SCHOOLS, HOUSING, AND HOSPITALS; CREATE PARKLANDS; AND CONTROL AIR AND WATER POLLUTION.

AND UNDER THIS NATIONWIDE PROGRAM, THE PEOPLE OF A PARTICULAR AREA WILL BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING AND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.

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BUT THE CENTRAL POINT I AM MAKING BY THESE EXAMPLES
IS THAT THE DECADE OF THE '70'S DEMANDS TOTALLY NEW NATIONAL
POLICIES TO MEET THE CRITICAL CONCERNS OF OUR PEOPLE. NO LONGER
CAN WE BE A GROWING NATION WITHOUT A NATIONAL POLICY TO GOVERN
OUR GROWTH -- WITHOUT A PROGRESSIVE, EFFECTIVE SOCIAL POLICY;
A POPULATION POLICY; A HEALTH CARE POLICY; AN ENERGY RESOURCES
POLICY; AN EDUCATIONAL POLICY; A COMMUNICATIONS POLICY, OR
A MAJOR FINANCING POLICY.

WHAT YOU AND I DO NOW DETERMINES WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW.

IF WE WANT CLEAN AIR, WE MUST BEGIN TO ACT NOW.

IF WE WANT BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS, WE MUST
ACT NOW.

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IF WE WANT BETTER EDUCATION, WE MUST ACT NOW.

IF WE WANT TO GIVE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR HOPE AND SELF-FULFILLMENT IN THEIR LIVES, WE MUST ACT NOW.

IF WE WANT TO END THE HUMAN SACRIFICE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA,
THE WANTON EXPENDITURES, NOW IS THE TIME TO END AMERICAN
INVOLVEMENT. I CONSIDER THE RECENT ESCALATION OF THE BOMBING IN
VIETNAM AN UNCONSCIONABLE EXTENSION OF THE CONFLICT. I HAVE
CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT TO HALT THE BOMBING AND TO ARRANGE AN
EXTENDED PERIOD OF CEASE-FIRE TO LAST FOR AT LEAST THE DURATION
OF THE CHRISTMAS-TET HOLIDAYS -- THROUGH FEBRUARY 15TH.

SUCH AN EXTENDED TRUCE OFFERS A WAY TO SAVE LIVES AND
PROMOTE PEACE AT A TIME WHEN THIS NATION AND ALL OF SOUTHEAST
ASIA DESPERATELY NEED PEACE.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO RE-ESTABLISH OUR LEADERSHIP IN THE
WORLD AS A NATION DETERMINED TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

NOW IS THE TIME TO HALT THE DIVERSION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES INTO
THE MACHINERY OF WAR, AND TO DEDICATE THEM TO THE MEETING OF
CRITICAL HUMAN NEEDS. NOW IS THE TIME TO HEAL THE DEEP WOUNDS
OF DIVISION IN AMERICA OVER THIS WAR.

I HAVE PLEDGED TO WORK TO CARRY THROUGH THIS AGENDA FOR
ACTION AT HOME AND ABROAD, NOW. I ASK YOU NOW TO JOIN ME IN
THIS VITAL WORK. THE JOB CAN AND MUST BE DONE, IF THE TOMORROWS
OF THIS GREAT LAND ARE TO BE DAYS OF PROMISE AND HOPE, FOR ALL
AMERICANS.

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