

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN  
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

St. Paul, Minnesota

August 21, 1972

On behalf of the people of the State of Minnesota I would like to welcome the delegates and alternates of the American Federation of Teachers.

Today I come to you with a very direct message.

Today the teachers of America are on the threshold of becoming a powerful and progressive political force.

And today the time has come for teachers to become a partisan force.

Not partisan in politics -- for this is your own decision.

But partisan for education, for our children, for teachers, for people.

I call on you to man the barricades of the war on ignorance.

I call on you to examine the records of those who shape and make educational policies to see who your real friends are.

Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew are not the friends of the American Federation of Teachers. There is no doubt about that.

The Nixon-Agnew administration has been not only anti-education, anti-teacher, anti-children, but it has been anti-truth as it blatantly breaks its promises to the American people.

Let's look at the record:

-- On two occasions when the Congress appropriated more than \$5 billion for the education of our children, this Republican President said:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- When the need was clear to aid pre-school children, this Republican president said:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- When the hungry children of America cried out for an expanded school feeding program this Republican President said:

"NO, NO GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

Yes, a record of broken promises, vetoes, cutbacks and unmet crises have been part and parcel of the story of American education for the past four years.

What should a President of the United States be doing in the field of education?

Let me outline some of the goals and objectives which must guide a President and the Congress in formulating educational policies.

I have always prided myself on being a teacher -- even in politics. I've seen my many years in public service as ones where I helped educate this nation to learn what we must do to make America a more humane and progressive force in the world.

In the creation of educational policies for a great nation we must be guided by Jefferson's philosophy that ignorance is an alien force in a democratic society. "We can't be both free and ignorant," he said.

The great desire for the improvement in the quality of human life in this nation cannot be realized without a firm and total commitment to providing better education for our children.

Until all levels of government and the people recognize the role which education plays as a force for change in attaining that quality, we will have failed the goal which says: "Let each become all he was created capable of being."

This is what I want for American education -- not only for children, but for teachers, administrators and all who contribute to our educational system.

I believe that America needs a dramatic, and creative educational policy.

The time has come to end the patchwork and stopgap provisions of the past. We must think boldly and be willing to bear the cost of commitment to our most valuable resource: the youth of America.

I would like to discuss some of the major points which must guide American educational policies in the 1970's.

Congress must move now to establish a trust fund for education that would guarantee at least one third of the cost of elementary and secondary education from the federal government.

With this method, the schools would know in advance what funds would be available and these resources would be free from zealous budget cutters.

Any such fund must guarantee maximum local and state control. But it should also require the meeting of national objectives to insure every child a quality education.

And all of you must take the lead in defining what quality education is. Right now, it's a term everyone tosses around but no one seems to define in terms of the day to day activities which will insure that each child is given the maximum opportunity to develop his or her potential to the fullest.

I believe the creation of a Cabinet level Department of Education with a secretary who would have direct access to the highest levels of government should be the number one educational priority of any President.

A man or woman of the caliber and courage of the late great Commissioner of Education James Allen should head this new department.

As part of any educational policy, a President must enforce the law of the land and not subvert the rulings of the Supreme Court in the area of civil and human rights. We can't move backwards as we have been led to do by the present administration.

A President must not leave the task of achieving inter-racial justice solely to the schools. We must have housing programs that permit people to enjoy home ownership in communities of their choice.

And part of guaranteeing open neighborhoods throughout America is the goal of providing adequate incomes to all people so that home ownership and home improvement are attainable goals.

To do this, we need jobs. We need a sound economy with economic policies which are fair.

We all realize that unless the parents of the children you teach have decent incomes, their education is bound to suffer. And their parents need jobs.

I am committed to seeing that the Congress and the President guarantee the right to a job for every American capable of working.

And while I am on the subject of jobs, I want to point out the tragedy which is now occurring because in the midst of a serious crisis in the quality of education there are nearly 20,000 experienced teachers without work and nearly 320,000 new teachers without jobs. If this trend continues, by 1976 there will be a surplus of 600,000 teachers. It will be impossible to meet the educational needs of this

nation with hundreds of thousands of skilled and talented teachers idle because we lack the funds to hire them. This is where I hope the one-third federal funding of public education will close the alarming gap between skilled teachers and children in need of better educations.

And in order that teachers be free to teach as creatively as they can, I believe the Congress must move now to establish a national collective bargaining law for the teachers of America with all of the prerogatives that other organized employees in the private sector enjoy.

I deplore the situation that leads to strikes. But teachers must be guaranteed the right to seek a redress of their grievances.

The right to bargain collectively must come from federal law. Unfortunately, too many state laws are inadequate. And some states have no such laws and little prospect that they will be enacted.

Another right belonging to the teachers of America to which I am committed would be federal standards and guarantees in the provision of portable pension and retirement benefits.

It is wrong and unfair for a teacher who has devoted his life to the education profession to be shortchanged in his pension and retirement benefits simply because he has moved from one state to another during the course of a career. Portable pensions are a fundamental right that is late in coming but badly needed now.

Justice for our children and for yourselves demands that you as teachers play an important role in the American political process.

All of you must lift your sights beyond the school board and legislature.

The only hope we have for the kind of new educational policies I have outlined today lies with the Congress and the Presidency.

- Funds for quality education in urban and rural America.
- A fair economy.
- The guarantee of equal education opportunities.
- The food to thwart the hunger of American children.
- And the Commitment to change the ways of the past and turn toward new directions in education and teachers' rights depends upon the person who sits in the White House and the men and the women who serve in the Congress.

I ask you to remember this as we embark on the serious business of an election year. This is the time when America's policies for the coming decade will be determined.

This is the time when teachers must speak out for the future of our children.

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ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN  
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

AUGUST 21, 1972

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① The Schools + Teachers cannot  
alone cure America's social ills!

② Quality Education ~~includes~~  
requires that we attack  
basic Problems—

(1) Economic Development

Jobs,

(2) cleaning up our cities—  
Slums, Housing

(3) modernizing rural America

And for our children

(1) adequate nutrition  
universal School lunch

(2) Health Care

(3) Pre-school—

(4) Child Care Centers

St. Paul Federation Local 28 - Hoot

(X) James Melosh - David Selden

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(X) Barnes noack

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, I join

the Governor in

~~I WOULD LIKE TO~~ WELCOME THE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES OF

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

L TODAY I COME TO YOU WITH A VERY DIRECT MESSAGE.

L TODAY THE TEACHERS OF AMERICA ARE ON THE THRESHOLD

OF BECOMING A POWERFUL AND PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL FORCE.

L AND TODAY THE TIME HAS COME FOR TEACHERS TO BECOME A

PARTISAN FORCE.

L NOT PARTISAN IN POLITICS -- FOR THIS IS YOUR OWN

DECISION.

L BUT PARTISAN FOR EDUCATION, FOR OUR CHILDREN, FOR

TEACHERS, FOR PEOPLE.

Gov Anderson - David Roe



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OK I CALL ON YOU TO MAN THE BARRICADES OF THE WAR ON  
IGNORANCE, <sup>\*</sup>-on Prejudice, -on Discrimination.

and L I CALL ON YOU TO EXAMINE THE RECORDS OF THOSE WHO  
SHAPE AND MAKE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES TO SEE WHO YOUR REAL

FRIENDS ARE.

! I speak to you as a former member  
 of AFT - a former teacher - an early  
 and consistent advocate of Ed to Educ.  
 I charge that RICHARD NIXON AND SPIRO AGNEW ARE NOT THE FRIENDS OF

Education - Teachers or School  
 THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS. THERE IS NO DOUBT

children  
 ABOUT THAT.

X THE NIXON-AGNEW ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN NOT ONLY  
ANTI-EDUCATION, ANTI-TEACHER, ANTI-CHILDREN, BUT IT HAS  
 BEEN ANTI-TRUTH AS IT BLATANTLY BREAKS ITS PROMISES TO  
 THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD:

L -- ON TWO OCCASIONS WHEN THE CONGRESS APPROPRIATED  
MORE THAN \$5 BILLION FOR THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN,

THIS REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- WHEN THE NEED WAS CLEAR TO AID PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN *in*  
*the child care program* --  
THIS REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-- *W* *it came to*  
~~WHEN THE HUNGRY CHILDREN OF AMERICA CRIED OUT FOR~~

AN EXPANDED SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM THIS REPUBLICAN

PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."



-3A-

AND JUST LAST WEEK, AFTER THE CONGRESS HAD  
APPROVED A VITALLY IMPORTANT HEW & DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL THAT CONTAINED \$30.5  
BILLION FOR EXPANDED HEALTH, EDUCATION, <sup>welfare</sup> AND MANPOWER  
PROGRAMS FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED, THIS REPUBLICAN  
PRESIDENT SAID:

"NO, NO, GO SLOW, NOT NOW, VETO."

-4-

*L* YES, A RECORD OF BROKEN PROMISES, VETOES, CUTBACKS

AND UNMET CRISES HAVE BEEN PART AND PARCEL OF THE STORY

OF AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

*mw* *L* WHAT SHOULD A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BE DOING  
= =  
IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION?

*Goals* *L* LET ME OUTLINE SOME OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
WHICH MUST GUIDE A PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS IN FORMULATING  
EDUCATIONAL POLICIES.

*Political* *L* I HAVE ALWAYS PRIDED MYSELF ON BEING A TEACHER --  
EVEN IN POLITICS. I'VE SEEN MY MANY YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE  
AS ONES WHERE I HELPED EDUCATE THIS NATION TO LEARN WHAT  
WE MUST DO TO MAKE AMERICA A MORE HUMANE AND PROGRESSIVE  
FORCE IN THE WORLD.

-5-

IN THE CREATION OF EDUCATIONAL POLICIES FOR A GREAT NATION WE MUST BE GUIDED BY JEFFERSON'S PHILOSOPHY THAT IGNORANCE IS AN ALIEN FORCE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. "WE CAN'T BE BOTH FREE AND IGNORANT," HE SAID.

THE GREAT DESIRE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE IN THIS NATION CANNOT BE REALIZED WITHOUT A FIRM AND TOTAL COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING BETTER EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

UNTIL ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE ROLE WHICH EDUCATION PLAYS AS A FORCE FOR CHANGE IN ATTAINING THAT QUALITY, WE WILL HAVE FAILED THE GOAL WHICH SAYS: "LET EACH BECOME ALL HE WAS CREATED CAPABLE OF BEING."

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L THIS IS WHAT I WANT FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION -- NOT ONLY  
FOR CHILDREN, BUT FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND ALL WHO  
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

I BELIEVE THAT AMERICA NEEDS A DRAMATIC, AND CREATIVE  
EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

THE TIME HAS COME TO END THE PATCHWORK AND STOPGAP  
PROVISIONS OF THE PAST. WE MUST THINK BOLDLY AND BE WILLING  
TO BEAR THE COST OF COMMITMENT TO OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE:  
THE YOUTH OF AMERICA.

I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE MAJOR POINTS WHICH  
MUST GUIDE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL POLICIES IN THE 1970's.

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*Trust fund*

11)

CONGRESS MUST MOVE NOW TO ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND FOR  
EDUCATION THAT WOULD GUARANTEE <sup>*up to*</sup> ~~AT LEAST~~ ONE THIRD OF THE  
COST OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FROM THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT.

∟ WITH THIS METHOD, THE SCHOOLS WOULD KNOW IN ADVANCE  
WHAT FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND THESE RESOURCES WOULD  
BE FREE FROM ZEALOUS BUDGET CUTTERS.

∟ ANY SUCH FUND MUST GUARANTEE MAXIMUM LOCAL AND STATE  
CONTROL. BUT IT SHOULD ALSO REQUIRE THE MEETING OF NATIONAL  
OBJECTIVES TO INSURE EVERY CHILD A QUALITY EDUCATION.

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*Quality Educ  
what is it!*

AND ALL OF YOU MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN DEFINING WHAT  
QUALITY EDUCATION IS. RIGHT NOW, IT'S A TERM EVERYONE  
 TOSSES AROUND BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO DEFINE IN TERMS OF THE  
 DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL INSURE THAT EACH CHILD IS  
 GIVEN THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP HIS OR HER POTENTIAL  
TO THE FULLEST.

*Cabinet  
Dept of  
Educ*

1 ~~THE~~ THE CREATION OF A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION WITH A SECRETARY WHO WOULD HAVE DIRECT ACCESS  
 TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE THE NUMBER  
ONE EDUCATIONAL PRIORITY OF ANY PRESIDENT.



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*Collective Bargaining*

~~II~~

AND IN ORDER THAT TEACHERS BE FREE TO TEACH AS

CREATIVELY AS THEY CAN, I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS MUST MOVE NOW

TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAW FOR THE

TEACHERS OF AMERICA, ~~WITH ALL OF THE PREROGATIVES THAT OTHER~~

~~ORGANIZED EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ENJOY.~~

~~I DEPLORE THE SITUATION THAT LEADS TO STRIKES. BUT  
TEACHERS MUST BE GUARANTEED THE RIGHT TO SEEK A REDRESS OF  
THEIR GRIEVANCES.~~

THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY MUST COME FROM

FEDERAL LAW. UNFORTUNATELY, TOO MANY STATE LAWS ARE

INADEQUATE. AND SOME STATES HAVE NO SUCH LAWS AND LITTLE

PROSPECT THAT THEY WILL BE ENACTED.

*Pensions*

ANOTHER RIGHT BELONGING TO THE TEACHERS OF AMERICA TO

WHICH I AM COMMITTED WOULD BE FEDERAL STANDARDS AND

GUARANTEES IN THE PROVISION OF PORTABLE PENSION AND

RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

*✓* IT IS WRONG AND UNFAIR FOR A TEACHER WHO HAS DEVOTED  
*or her* HIS LIFE TO THE EDUCATION PROFESSION TO BE SHORTCHANGED IN

~~HIS~~ PENSION AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS SIMPLY BECAUSE *the teacher* ~~HE HAS~~

*has* MOVED FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER DURING THE COURSE OF A

CAREER. PORTABLE PENSIONS ARE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT THAT IS

LATE IN COMING BUT BADLY NEEDED NOW.

~~A MAN OR WOMAN OF THE CALIBER AND COURAGE OF THE  
LATE GREAT COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION JAMES ALLEN SHOULD  
HEAD THIS NEW DEPARTMENT.~~

As part of any educational policy, a President must  
enforce the law of the land and not subvert the rulings

of the Supreme Court in the area of civil and human rights.

~~We can't move backwards as we have been led to do by the  
present administration.~~

But A President must not leave the task of achieving *Quality*  
*Education and to the courts and*  
inter-racial justice ~~to the courts and~~ the schools. ~~We must have~~

~~housing programs that permit people to enjoy home owner~~

~~ship in communities of their choice.~~

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AND PART OF GUARANTEEING OPEN NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGHOUT  
AMERICA IS THE GOAL OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE INCOMES TO ALL  
PEOPLE SO THAT HOME OWNERSHIP AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ARE  
ATTAINABLE GOALS.

TO DO THIS, WE NEED JOBS. WE NEED A SOUND ECONOMY  
WITH ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH ARE FAIR.

WE ALL REALIZE THAT UNLESS THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN  
YOU TEACH HAVE DECENT INCOMES, THEIR EDUCATION IS BOUND  
TO SUFFER. AND THEIR PARENTS NEED JOBS.

I AM COMMITTED TO SEEING THAT THE CONGRESS AND THE  
PRESIDENT GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO A JOB FOR EVERY AMERICAN  
CAPABLE OF WORKING.

-10-

AND WHILE I AM ON THE SUBJECT OF JOBS, I WANT TO POINT OUT THE TRAGEDY WHICH IS NOW OCCURRING BECAUSE IN THE MIDST OF A SERIOUS CRISIS IN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION THERE ARE NEARLY 20,000 EXPERIENCED TEACHERS WITHOUT WORK AND NEARLY 320,000 NEW TEACHERS WITHOUT JOBS. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, BY 1976 THERE WILL BE A SURPLUS OF 600,000 TEACHERS. IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THIS NATION WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SKILLED AND TALENTED TEACHERS IDLE BECAUSE WE LACK THE FUNDS TO HIRE THEM. THIS IS WHERE I HOPE THE ONE-THIRD FEDERAL FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION WILL CLOSE THE ALARMING GAP BETWEEN SKILLED TEACHERS AND CHILDREN IN NEED OF BETTER EDUCATIONS.

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JUSTICE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR YOURSELVES DEMANDS  
THAT YOU AS TEACHERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AMERICAN  
POLITICAL PROCESS.

ALL OF YOU MUST LIFT YOUR SIGHTS BEYOND THE SCHOOL  
BOARD AND LEGISLATURE.

THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE FOR THE KIND OF NEW EDUCATIONAL  
POLICIES I HAVE OUTLINED TODAY LIES WITH THE CONGRESS AND  
THE PRESIDENCY.

-- FUNDS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN URBAN AND RURAL AMERICA.

-- ~~A MINIMUM~~ *an expanding economy - with a*  
*guarantee of a job.*

-- THE GUARANTEE OF EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.



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-- THE FOOD TO THWART THE HUNGER OF AMERICAN CHILDREN.

-- AND THE COMMITMENT TO CHANGE THE WAYS OF THE PAST

AND TURN TOWARD NEW DIRECTIONS IN EDUCATION AND TEACHERS'

RIGHTS DEPENDS UPON THE PERSON WHO SITS IN THE WHITE HOUSE

AND THE MEN AND THE WOMEN WHO SERVE IN THE CONGRESS.

I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THIS AS WE EMBARK ON THE

SERIOUS BUSINESS OF AN ELECTION YEAR. THIS IS THE TIME WHEN

AMERICA'S POLICIES FOR THE COMING DECADE WILL BE DETERMINED.

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN TEACHERS MUST SPEAK OUT FOR THE

FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN.

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