

REMARKS

BY

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MINNESOTA DISTRICT 7 PTA

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BROOKLYN PARK, MINNESOTA

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IT IS A DISTINCT PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO JOIN  
YOU THIS EVENING AND TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
APPLAUD YOU ON THIS CONFERENCE TO SET AN ACTION AGENDA  
ON MAJOR ISSUES IN EDUCATION.

THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WILL  
SHORTLY BECOME A CENTRAL ISSUE IN WASHINGTON. THE  
CONGRESS MUST TAKE ACTION ON LEGISLATION TO CONTINUE  
FEDERAL PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO EDUCATION, PRIOR  
TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION ACT ON JUNE 30, 1973.

SOME MIGHT TAKE COMFORT IN REFLECTING THAT WE  
HAVE PASSED THE POINT WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO ARGUE  
ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THERE SHOULD BE A FEDERAL INTEREST  
IN EDUCATION -- THE DEBATE THAT RAGED IN THE '40'S AND  
'50's.

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IT WAS, OF COURSE, A FALSE ISSUE, FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS SINCE 1783, WHEN UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION THE GOVERNMENT SET ASIDE TWO SECTIONS OF LAND OUT OF EVERY TOWNSHIP FOR THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

HOWEVER, MY PURPOSE TONIGHT IS TO SUGGEST TO YOU IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT THE ISSUE IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. THE QUESTION THAT MUST BE FACED SQUARELY BY CONGRESS IS WHETHER THERE WILL BE A REGRESSION OF FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION, UNDER BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

A RECENT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS, ENTITLED "WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON?," STATES AT THE OUTSET THAT "SCHOOL FINANCE IS STILL A TOP PRIORITY SUBJECT."

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I STRONGLY BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY SUBJECT, BUT I FRANKLY DO NOT SEE THIS CONCERN BEING EXPRESSED BY THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IS PRESENTLY WORKING ON LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT -- A DRAFT BILL, S. 1539, ON WHICH REVISIONS WILL BE MADE PRIOR TO SENATE FLOOR CONSIDERATION. IT WAS WITH A DEEP SENSE OF PERSONAL FULFILLMENT THAT AS VICE PRESIDENT, I WITNESSED THE SIGNING OF THE ESEA INTO LAW IN 1965 -- FOR IT BROUGHT TO FRUITION A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS I HAD SPONSORED DURING MY PREVIOUS 16 YEARS IN THE SENATE. AND, DESPITE CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND DESPITE CONSTANT DELAYS IN FUNDING AND CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING, THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN IMPROVING EDUCATION FOR MILLIONS OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN.

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STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THIS ACT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE PTA, THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, THE COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS, AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS,

BUT THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO SCRAP THESE PROGRAMS. INSTEAD, IT HAS SUBMITTED PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT IN NAME ONLY, AND DEFINITELY NOT IN SUBSTANCE, IS TO BE CALLED THE BETTER SCHOOLS ACT (S. 1319/H.R. 5823). THIS IS BASICALLY THE SAME PROPOSAL THAT WAS PUSHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION LAST YEAR AS SPECIAL REVENUE SHARING FOR EDUCATION -- A PROPOSAL WHICH CONGRESS FIRMLY REJECTED.

THE ADMINISTRATION BILL PURPORTS TO COMBINE SOME 32 PRESENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS INTO CONSOLIDATED GRANTS TO THE STATES, AND IT WOULD ALLEGEDLY PERMIT THE STATES TO DETERMINE HOW TO USE THE FUNDS, WITHOUT FEDERAL DIRECTION.

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Now, <sup>THAT</sup> ~~THE~~ SOUNDS ATTRACTIVE. <sup>c</sup> BUT LET US LOOK AT THE FACTS OF THE MATTER.

AS TO ACTUAL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE WEINBERGER HAS ADMITTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S BILL WOULD AUTHORIZE \$508 MILLION LESS THAN WAS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT IN FISCAL 1972. OTHER SOURCES ESTIMATE A CUTBACK OF UP TO \$600 MILLION. AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION OTTINA HAS ADMITTED THAT UNDER THE BETTER SCHOOLS ACT, ONE MILLION FEWER DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN WOULD BE SERVED THAN THIS YEAR.

OH, THE ADMINISTRATION STATES THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS WOULD RECEIVE AT LEAST 50 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS THEY RECEIVED IN FISCAL 1973 FOR THE DISADVANTAGED. BUT DISTRICTS WHICH RECEIVED \$10,000 OR LESS THIS YEAR --

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AND THAT INCLUDES MANY INDIAN AND OTHER SMALL ISOLATED RURAL SCHOOLS -- WOULD BE ELIMINATED ENTIRELY ~~FROM~~ FROM FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

NOW, WHAT ABOUT FEDERAL DIRECTION?

DESPITE CLAIMS THAT THE BETTER SCHOOLS ACT WOULD REDUCE SO-CALLED EXISTING FEDERAL CONTROL, THE BILL REQUIRES THAT 75 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS IT WOULD AUTHORIZE MUST BE SPENT FOR BASIC READING AND MATHEMATICS. THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY CLEAR AND FINAL FEDERAL DIRECTIVE TO ME ON WHAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS.

WHILE I PERSONALLY WOULD HOPE THAT SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON READING AND MATHEMATICS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DICTATE TO LOCAL SCHOOL OFFICIALS HOW THEY SHOULD DESIGN THE CURRICULUM.

MEANWHILE, HOW FINELY WILL THE REMAIN<sup>ING</sup> PORTION OF THE THINNED DOWN FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOLLAR BE CUT UP?

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FUNDS FOR EDUCATION OF THE HANDICAPPED, FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, AND FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES -- MEANING LIBRARIES AND GUIDANCE COUNSELLING AMONG OTHERS -- WOULD BE COMBINED UNDER THE BETTER SCHOOLS ACT INTO ONE ALLOCATION TO THE STATES BASED ON THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL-AGE POPULATIONS. OF THIS AMOUNT, 43 PERCENT IS TO BE USED FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, BUT EVEN THE BETTER PART OF THAT CAN BE DIVERTED TO OTHER PURPOSES, IF NECESSARY, UNDER A FURTHER PROVISION. AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN CAN EXPECT ONLY 16 PERCENT OF THIS LIMITED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO PROPOSES TO TERMINATE THE CATEGORY B PROGRAM OF AID TO FEDERALLY IMPACTED AREAS IN ONE STROKE, LEAVING A LARGE NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS SUDDENLY FACING A CRITICAL BUDGET DEFICIT.



BUT CATEGORY A AID WILL ALSO BE CUT BACK SUBSTANTIALLY,  
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHERE PARENTS BOTH LIVE AND WORK  
ON FEDERAL PROPERTY -- PROPERTY WHICH CANNOT BE TAXED  
BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MINNESOTA WOULD BE  
SERIOUSLY SET BACK BY FURTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BETTER  
SCHOOLS ACT WHICH WOULD TERMINATE PROGRAMS UNDER THE  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT -- NO FURTHER  
ASSISTANCE FOR LIBRARIES AND TEXTBOOKS, NO EXPERIMENTAL  
PROGRAMS, NO ASSISTANCE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS  
IN STATE EDUCATION AGENCIES.

I AM ADVISED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S BETTER SCHOOLS ACT WOULD MEAN  
AN ACTUAL LOSS TO OUR STATE OF OVER \$9 MILLION IN  
COMPARISON TO CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED IN FISCAL  
YEAR 1972.

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IT IS ALL WELL AND GOOD TO HAVE FEDERAL PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION THAT INSURES MORE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES. BUT IT IS DEAD WRONG TO PROPOSE A CONSOLIDATION THAT IS A COVER-UP FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF PROGRAMS FOR OUR MOST NEEDY CHILDREN. AND LET IT BE CLEAR THAT THIS WILL BE THE NET EFFECT OF THE BETTER SCHOOLS ACT, DESPITE PROVISIONS TO EARMARK \$1.5 BILLION FOR EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN ~~AND~~ AND ALLEGEDLY TO "HOLD HARMLESS" ALL STATES AND LOCAL DISTRICTS AT NOT LOWER THAN FISCAL 1973 FUNDING LEVELS, *UNDER ESEA TITLE I.*

THE ADMINISTRATION IS ADAMANT THAT THIS RESTRICTIVE PROGRAM BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACTS. BUT I BELIEVE A MAJORITY IN CONGRESS IS EQUALLY DETERMINED NOT TO ACCEPT THE TOTALLY MIS-LABELLED BETTER SCHOOLS ACT.

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BUT THE POINT I WANT TO MAKE TONIGHT IS THAT THIS SHOULD NOT JUST BE A FIGHT BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS. IT MUST, IN FACT, BE YOUR FIGHT AS WELL.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE IN THE PTA LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE SCHOOL LUNCH AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS. AS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE THIS IS ALSO ONE OF MY MAJOR INTERESTS.

IT REALLY SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE PTA THAT "ALL CHILDREN SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE NUTRITIOUS MEAL A DAY."

LAST YEAR WE MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL BY CHANGING THE ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR FREE LUNCHES AND BREAKFASTS FOR POOR OR NEAR POOR CHILDREN.

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BUT DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF MYSELF AND SENATOR CASE,  
THE BILL AS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT CONTAINED THE VERY  
BAD PROVISION PERMITTING THE INSTALLATION OF VENDING  
MACHINES -- FILLED WITH CANDY AND SOFT DRINKS -- TO  
BE INSTALLED IN SCHOOL LUNCH ROOMS TO COMPETE WITH THE  
REGULAR LUNCH PROGRAM.

THOUSANDS OF LETTERS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OBJECTING TO THIS PROVISION.  
BUT IN THIS CASE, IT IS NOT THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT  
WHICH IS AT FAULT.

I HAVE INTRODUCED S. 1063, TO AMEND THE SCHOOL  
LUNCH ACT TO PROHIBIT THIS COMPETITIVE FOOD SERVICE,  
SUCH AS VENDING MACHINES, BY LIMITING THEIR USE TO  
SITUATIONS WHERE THE LOCAL SCHOOL DETERMINES THAT THE  
LUNCH PROGRAM DOES NOT MEET THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF  
CHILDREN.

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I HAVE RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL FROM PARENTS, TEACHERS AND DENTISTS. BUT DON'T WRITE TO ME - WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN. I'M FOR IT -IT'S MY BILL. LET YOUR CONGRESSMAN KNOW WHERE YOU STAND.

UP TO NOW, I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT EMERGENCY LEGISLATIVE SITUATIONS -- ACTIONS THAT MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT FURTHER REGRESSIONS IN POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATION.

BUT THERE IS ALSO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL OF AMERICA THAT DEMANDS THE ATTENTION OF CONGRESS. I AM REFERRING TO THE FUNDAMENTAL<sup>D</sup> ISSUE OF SCHOOL FINANCE -- FINDING THE REVENUES TO MEET RISING EDUCATION COSTS<sup>A</sup> IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

OF THE \$47 BILLION SPENT FOR SCHOOLS LAST YEAR, 52 PERCENT CAME FROM LOCAL TAXES. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE REGRESSIVE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX IS REGARDED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS THE MOST UNPOPULAR TAX IN OUR NATION.

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A RECENT NATIONAL SURVEY FOUND THIS TAX TO BE 2 1/2 TIMES MORE UNPOPULAR THAN EVEN THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX.

MEANWHILE, THIS TAX, USED PRIMARILY TO FINANCE OUR SCHOOLS, HAS WORKED TO MAKE THE QUALITY OF A CHILD'S EDUCATION A FUNCTION OF THE COMPARATIVE WEALTH OR POVERTY OF THE CHILD'S COMMUNITY. THE RECENT 5-TO-4 DECISION OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT IN SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT V. DEMETRIO P. RODRIGUEZ TO THE CONTRARY, THERE IS A SERIOUS NATIONWIDE PROBLEM OF EDUCATIONAL DISPARITY RESULTING FROM THIS METHOD OF FINANCING, THAT WORKS OUT TO DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF CHILDREN. THIS SITUATION DEMANDS CORRECTIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS IN OUR STATE CAPITALS.

BEYOND THIS FACT, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE BEING MORE AND MORE HARD PRESSED TO FIND THE FUNDS TO MEET RISING SCHOOL COSTS.

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THEY HAVE LOOKED FOR HELP TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WITH THE MOST ADVANCED AND EFFECTIVE REVENUE COLLECTION SYSTEM IN THE WORLD, BUT THEIR PETITIONS TO THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE REDRESS OF PROFOUND GRIEVANCES HAVE GONE UNANSWERED,

NOW, THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IS RIGHTLY CONCERNED TO PLACE A LIMIT ON THE LEVEL OF FEDERAL SPENDING. NO ONE ARGUES WITH THAT FISCAL OBJECTIVE, SO DO NOT BE MISLED THAT THIS IS THE ISSUE. NO, THE REAL ISSUE IS WHAT CATEGORIES OF SPENDING WILL BE HELD BACK, SLASHED, WHILE OTHERS ARE QUIETLY INCREASED.

THE ISSUE IS WHY DEFENSE SPENDING AND FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND CERTAIN OTHER PROGRAMS SHOULD BE INCREASED BY SOME \$10 BILLION, WHILE FUNDS FOR DOMESTIC HUMAN WELFARE PROGRAMS -- SERVICES TO AMERICAN PEOPLE IN SERIOUS NEED -- ARE CUT BACK BY AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT.

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THE ISSUE IS WHY THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED TO PROPOSE A PROGRAM OF GENUINE TAX REFORM TO LIFT SOME OF THE HEAVY TAX BURDEN OFF THE BACKS OF MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES, AND TO PRODUCE AT LEAST \$5 BILLION IN NEW REVENUES THAT COULD BE APPLIED TO MEETING OUR CRITICAL NEEDS AT HOME.

IT WAS TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE DIRECTLY THAT I INTRODUCED THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES RESOLUTION, SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14. ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THIS RESOLUTION BECAUSE, WHILE CALLING FOR A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1974, IT ALSO PLACES CONGRESS CLEARLY ON RECORD FOR REDUCTIONS IN NON-ESSENTIAL MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND FOR A REFORMED TAX SYSTEM, AND IT WOULD PROVIDE A MEANS FOR MEETING OUR NEEDS IN EDUCATION, IN HEALTH CARE, IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, IN HOUSING AND THE REVITALIZATION OF OUR CITIES, AND IN RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL.



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BUT I BELIEVE CONGRESS MUST ALSO DIRECTLY CONFRONT THE ISSUE OF FINANCING OUR SCHOOLS. AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DRAFT A NEW EDUCATION POLICY FOR AMERICA -- A POLICY COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING EFFECTIVELY THE CRISIS IN OUR SCHOOLS; AND A POLICY TO GUARANTEE THAT ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH, WITHOUT REGARD TO CIRCUMSTANCES OF RESIDENCE, FAMILY INCOME, OR RACE WILL HAVE A FULL AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN A QUALITY EDUCATION.

PRIMARILY, THIS NEW POLICY SHOULD BE DIRECTED NOW TOWARD PAYING THE COST OF A QUALITY EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS -- BY SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION TO ONE-THIRD OF ALL PUBLIC RESOURCES. IT IS UNCONSCIONABLE THAT ONLY 2 CENTS OUT OF THE FEDERAL DOLLAR, OR SLIGHTLY MORE THAN \$5 BILLION, WOULD GO FOR EDUCATION UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1974.

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IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I WILL INTRODUCE THE NATIONAL EDUCATION INVESTMENT ACT, TO LAUNCH A MAJOR INITIATIVE TOWARD ESTABLISHING THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY FOR AMERICA THAT I REGARD AS ESSENTIAL IN THE PRESENT DECADE.

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION INVESTMENT ACT, SUPPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMS OF TARGETTED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT, WOULD MEET THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE, OBSOLESCEENT, AND RUNDOWN SCHOOL FACILITIES IN DEPRESSED AREAS, BY PROVIDING FOR FEDERAL GRANTS FOR THE MODERNIZATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

IT WOULD ADDRESS THE FREQUENT CONDITION OF OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS AND THE HIGH RATE OF VOTER TURN-DOWNS OF BOND REFERENDUMS, AS WELL AS HIGH DEBT SERVICE COSTS, FOR FINANCING NEW AND EXPANDED PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES. TO HELP SOLVE THESE SERIOUS PROBLEMS, THIS BILL WOULD PROVIDE FOR A MAJOR INCENTIVE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT AREA.

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IT WOULD AUTHORIZE FEDERAL LOAN GUARANTEES AND INTEREST SUBSIDIES TO BE PROVIDED THROUGH A TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED IN THE U. S. TREASURY.

AND IT WOULD END THE INHERENT DISPARITY AND INJUSTICE OF MAKING A CHILD'S EDUCATION DEPENDENT ON THE WEALTH OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HE OR SHE HAPPENS TO LIVE IN, BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL EDUCATION<sup>AL</sup> TRUST FUND~~FUND~~ WITH A TOTAL AUTHORIZATION OF \$20 BILLION. PAYMENTS FROM THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND~~FUND~~ BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE TIED TO THE REDUCTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX AS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. LAST YEAR, ALMOST NINE-TENTHS OF LOCAL SPENDING FOR SCHOOLS, OR \$21 BILLION, CAME FROM THE PROPERTY TAX.

SECOND, THESE TRUST FUND PAYMENTS WOULD ALSO BE TIED TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND OVERALL BALANCING AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES, BUT WITHOUT PENALIZING HIGH-COST OR HIGH-EXPENDITURE DISTRICTS.

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FINALLY, THE NATIONAL EDUCATION INVESTMENT ACT WOULD FIRMLY ESTABLISH THE PRIORITY THAT EDUCATION NEEDS MUST HAVE IN OUR NATIONAL POLICIES, BY PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THIS FURTHER STRENGTHENING AND CONSOLIDATION OF FEDERAL RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE, BEYOND AFFIRMATIVE MEASURES TAKEN IN THE ENACTMENT OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972, IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE.

THIS LEGISLATION CAN FURTHER THE MAJOR INITIATIVES TAKEN BY MINNESOTA IN PROMOTING A BALANCE AMONG LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURE EFFORTS, MAKING OUR STATE A MODEL FOR OTHER STATES TO FOLLOW.

BUT SUCH LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS CANNOT SUCCEED ON THEIR OWN. THEY MUST HAVE PUBLIC SUPPORT. NOW, PERHAPS MORE THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE MUST BE HEARD.

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THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS MUST KNOW OF YOUR CONCERN THAT A FUNDAMENTAL REORDERING OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. THEY MUST KNOW THAT YOU EXPECT OUR GOVERNMENT TO GOVERN WITH INTEGRITY AND WITH CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE.

IT IS TO ORGANIZATIONS OF PEOPLE LIKE THE PTA THAT WE MUST LOOK FOR POSITIVE ACTION. IF YOU AND THE NINE MILLION LIKE YOU IN PTA'S THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY DO YOUR PART, ALONG WITH MILLIONS OF OTHER CITIZENS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT AMERICA WILL ENTER ITS THIRD CENTURY WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS REALIZED, WITH GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN IN A WORLD OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

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