

EDUCATION PANEL

PRESENTED TO:
INDEPENDENT SECTOR

REMARKS BY:
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PITTSBURGH HILTON HOTEL
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INDEPENDENT SECTOR

THANK YOU.

WE ARE ALL ENGAGED IN A MULTIFRONT WAR. THIS EFFORT
TO OVERHAUL OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM AND RELATED SYSTEMS
IS JUST THAT -- A WAR, A CRUSADE IN WHICH OUR SOCIETY
WILL BE DESTROYED IF WE LOSE. DRAMATIC BUT TRUE!

INDEPENDENT

MY FOCUS IN EDUCATION THE LAST
10 YEARS HAS BEEN ON URBAN CHILDREN AT RISK, AND
BECAUSE OF THAT I HAVE AN APOCALYPTIC VISION OF THE
FUTURE. DISTURBING FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE
BEEN MARSHALLED TIME AND AGAIN. LET ME GIVE YOU 2
EXAMPLES:

LET'S TAKE A NATIONAL PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2001
WHICH STARTED KINDERGARTEN LAST FALL.

25% LIVING BELOW PROVERTY LINE

15% HAVE MENTAL OR PHYSICAL HANDICAPS

14% BORN TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

14% BORN TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS

INDEPENDENT

DISASTER IS ALMOST GUARANTEED IF

KIDS FALL INTO MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY.

AND HERE IS "A DAY IN THE LIVES OF AMERICAN CHILDREN"

FROM THE CHILDRENS DEFENSE FUND:

1,868 TEENS DROP OUT OF SCHOOL

988 AMERICAN CHILDREN ARE ABUSED

2,989 CHILDREN SEE THEIR PARENTS DIVORCED

1,099 TEENAGERS HAVE ABORTIONS

1,287 TEENAGERS GIVE BIRTH

110 BABIES DIE BEFORE THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY

27 CHILDREN DIE BECAUSE OF POVERTY

5 SCHOOL-AGE YOUTHS ARE MURDERED

5 TEENS COMMIT SUICIDE

INDEPENDENT SECTOR

THE FACTS ARE NOT NEW BUT OUR INCREASING
RECOGNITION IS NEW. WE ARE BEGINNING TO ARRIVE AT A
MORE REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY
LARGE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN. WE ARE PUTTING ASIDE THE
TRADITIONAL COMPARTMENTALIZED VIEW THAT LOOKS AT
EDUCATION AS ONE PROBLEM, HEALTH AS ANOTHER, FAMILY
INCOME AS A THIRD.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR

IN ITS PLACE, WE ARE BEGINNING TO ADOPT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE VIEW THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE WAYS EDUCATION, HEALTH, NUTRITION, HOUSING, FAMILY INCOME, SOCIAL SUPPORTS AND EVEN POLITICAL DECISIONS ALL INTERACT TO FORM THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

MANY COMMUNITY LEADERS INCLUDING THOSE IN
BUSINESS ARE BEGINNING TO SPEAK OUT IN A POWERFUL WAY
-- YES, OF COURSE, ON TOPICS OF EDUCATION REFORM SUCH
AS CURRICULUM CHANGES, TEACHER COMPENSATION, SCHOOL-
BASED MANAGEMENT, SCHOOL CHOICE -- BUT ALSO
ON PRENATAL CARE, EXPANSION OF W.I.C. AND HEAD START,
(TWO ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL BUT UNDERFUNDED PROGRAMS),
QUALITY DAY CARE.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR

WEAKNESS IN SYSTEM IS NOT JUST POOR URBAN AREAS,
EDUCATION IS INADEQUATE IN MOST OF OUR WEALTHY
SUBURBS - THOSE ARE INCLUDED IN STATISTICS THAT HAVE
US RANKING 11 & 13 OUT OF 14 EDUCATED NATIONS IN MATH
AND SCIENCE. BUT PROBLEMS ARE THE LARGEST AND BATTLE
IS THE FIERCEST IN OUR 25 LARGEST URBAN SCHOOL
DISTRICTS WHERE MINORITIES ARE A MAJORITY AND POVERTY
IS MASSIVE.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR

IT ISN'T THAT OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS GOTTEN
WORSE. LITERACY RATES ARE HIGHER AND DROPOUT RATES
ARE LOWER THAN THEY WERE DURING WWII PERIOD, BUT THE
SYSTEM HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH EDUCATION DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE REST OF WORLD. IN ADDITION, IT HAS CERTAINLY
BECOME TOTALLY DISCONNECTED FROM WORLD AROUND IT.

(THESE ARE GENERALIZATIONS AND LIKE ALL
GENERALIZATIONS, ARE NOT ENTIRELY TRUE.)

WE HAVE HAD IN THE YEARS SINCE A NATION AT RISK
APPEARED IN THE EARLY SO'S AT LEAST 10 ADDITIONAL
MAJOR REPORTS ON WHAT AILS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.
MOST HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN TOUCHING ON
DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THIS INCREDIBLY COMPLEX SET OF
PROBLEMS AND DRAMATIZING THESE FOR A WIDE AUDIENCE.

BUT I THINK ITS ABOUT TIME WE ADOPT WHAT A
FRIEND OF MINE CALLS THE "NOAH PRINCIPLE". NOT MORE
REWARDS AND APPLAUSE FOR FORECASTING RAIN - REWARDS
ONLY FOR BUILDING ARKS.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR

SO LETS TALK ABOUT SOME SPECIFIC PLANS FOR ARKS.
WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE DETAILS BUT WE HAVE MANY. WE
CAN BUILD AT LEAST 2/3'S OF THE ARKS WE NEED, AND THE
REST OF THE DETAILS WILL DEVELOP THRU THE PROCESS OF
BUILDING.

WE NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION IN AT LEAST 4 MAJOR
AREAS. - (FOUR FRONTS IN OUR WAR)

INDEPENDENT SECTOR

A. FIRST AN ATTACK ON RESULTS OF POVERTY

1. PRENATAL CARE, W.I.C., HEAD START (SMART START) CHILDREN IMMUNIZATION, CHAPTER I FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS EDUCATING THE DISADVANTAGED, QUALITY DAY CARE

2. THE COST TO OUR CIVILIZATION IS BEYOND IMAGINING IF WE DON'T START DEFINING THE EDUCATION PROCESS AS ONE BEGINNING WITH CONCEPTION. I MENTIONED EARLIER 15% OF MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND IT IS MUCH GREATER IN URBAN POVERTY AREAS. WE RANK A LOWLY 19TH AMONG INDUSTRIAL NATIONS IN INFANT MORTALITY - ANOTHER HORRIBLE STATISTIC.

7=77-v"7N- 77C -^t"

THESE ARE ALL TESTED PROGRAMS - WE KNOW
THEY WORK. HEAD START IS THE MOST
SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL PROGRAM IN LAST QUARTER OF
CENTURY. WE KNOW THAT WHEN HEAD START KIDS
GROW UP THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO FIND JOBS,
FORM STABLE FAMILIES, LESS APT TO BE ON
WELFARE, LESS TROUBLE WITH LAW AND YET WE
FUND ONLY 20% THE PROGRAM WE NEED. W.I.C.
SAVES MINIMUM OF \$3 FOR EVERY \$ SPENT, YET
OUR COVERAGE IS ONLY 40%.

B. CHANGE THE STRUCTURE AND THE CURRICULAR

1. LESS BUREAUCRACY - MOVE TO SCHOOL-BASED MANAGEMENT, LATER TO CHOICE (PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY), MERIT AWARDS TO SPEED PROCESS.

2. NEED STRONGER MATH AND SCIENCE COMPONENTS, NEED TO TEACH MORE ANALYTICAL SKILLS, MORE COMMUNICATION SKILLS.

3. NEED TO EXPERIMENT WITH NEW WAYS OF IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE (TEAM TEACHING, NEW ELECTRONIC DEVICES) PROGRAMS TO COMBAT TEEN-AGE PREGNANCY, ALCOHOLISM, DRUGS & VIOLENCE.

C. IMPROVE TEACHER QUALITY

1. DRASTIC CHANGE IN THE CONTENT OF TEACHER ED.

(UNDERWAY WITH HOLMES GROUP) AND DEVELOPMENT

OF TEACHING STANDARDS (WORK OF NATIONAL

BOARD FOR TEACHING STANDARDS) .

2. NEED ADEQUATE COMPENSATION AND DECENT

WORKING CONDITIONS .

3. NEED SKILLED PEOPLE FROM PRIVATE SECTOR TO

OPT FOR TEACHING AS 2ND CAREER .

D. ADEQUATE PHYSICAL PLANT

1. RUN DOWN FOR YEARS BECAUSE OF BUDGET

PRESSURES .

SPEED THE PROCESS

HOW DO WE DIVIDE UP THIS WORKLOAD?

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE 2 MORE GENERATIONS
WHILE WE'RE BUILDING THIS ARK.

A. PUBLIC EDUCATION MUST BE PAID FOR BY PUBLIC
SECTOR.

(DON'T WORRY- STILL LOTS OF FUNDS REQUIRED
FROM INDEPENDENT SECTOR AND BUSINESS)

1. FEDS - SHOULD SPEND HEAVILY ON POVERTY AREA
TO TRY TO ENSURE EVEN START.

HEAVY RESEARCH COMPONENT

NATIONAL TARGETS AND MONITORING SYSTEM

(DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH STATES AND
PRIVATE SECTOR)

2. STATE & LOCAL - DIRECT EDUCATION BUDGET

MONIES HERE.

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS MUST BE
STRENGTHENED.

MATCHING GRANTS & MERIT AWARDS.

ACTION ON RESTRICTIVE LAWS.

B. INDEPENDENT SECTOR

MAJOR SOURCE OF CREATIVITY AND MOTIVATION
FOR CHANGE (VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE SYSTEM
HAS LITTLE OR NO MOTIVE TO REFORM ITSELF.
ALSO SOURCE FUNDS FOR PILOT PROGRAM.

1. LARGE FOUNDATIONS

HAVE PLAYED MAJOR ROLE - LARGELY POLICY

CARNEGIE, FORD, W.T. GRANT AND QUASI

FOUNDATIONS SUCH AS C.E.D.

2. MEDIUM SIZE & LOCAL FOUNDATIONS - STRONG,

TIGHT LOCAL KNOWLEDGE & CONNECTIONS - GREAT

SOURCE OF IDEAS AND FUNDS FOR ACTION

PROGRAMS.

C. BUSINESS SECTOR

NOT ESPECIALLY CREATIVE BUT STILL VERY USEFUL

1. MOST EFFECTIVE LOBBYISTS FOR EDUCATION YOU CAN FIND. ARE VIEWED BY POLITICIANS AS BEING OBJECTIVE AND GOOD AT COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS: AND THEREFORE OFFER BETTER ADVICE THAN EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS AND SOCIAL ISSUE BLEEDING HEARTS. THIS WORKED WITH BOTH HEAD START AND CHAPTER 1.

2. BUSINESS COMMUNITY SPENDING \$25 BILLION/YEAR ON MASSIVE REMEDIAL PROGRAMS AND THAT MUST CONTINUE OVER NEXT 15-20 YEARS AS REFORM TAKES PLACE.

3. MUST MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO PROVIDE JOBS
AND TO DEVELOP A FEED-BACK SYSTEM TO
EDUCATION SO THAT WE DON'T REPEAT THIS
CYCLE.

WHY SHOULD THERE BE AN ENORMOUS SENSE OF URGENCY
ABOUT FINDING SOLUTIONS. TO BEGIN WITH, WE CAN SEE
THAT WE ARE DOOMED AS A WORLD POWER, DOOMED TO A
CONSTANTLY FALLING STANDARD OF LIVING UNLESS WE DO A
BETTER JOB OF EDUCATING OUR YOUTH. THERE HAS NEVER
BEEN A CASE IN HISTORY WHERE A LEADING NATION WAS NOT
ALSO AN ECONOMIC LEADER. AND YET HOW CAN WE COMPETE
WITH JAPAN AND GERMANY, IF 25% OF OUR WORKFORCE DOES
NOT EVEN HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND THAT, AN
INADEQUATE ONE.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, I THINK WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY IN THE U.S. THE 2 TIERING OF OUR SOCIETY IS DESTROYING THE SHARED VISION OF OURSELVES TOWARD WHICH WE'VE BEEN STRIVING FOR 200 YEARS AND WHICH IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES, SOONER OR LATER WE WILL WIND UP IN 2 ARMED CAMPS. THE WORLD HAS MANY TRAGIC EXAMPLES OF THIS -- MEXICO, PHILIPPINES, PUERTO RICO, VENEZUELA -- ALL PLACES WHERE THE HAVES LIVE IN COMPOUNDS WITH WALLS, BARBED WIRE, BROKEN GLASS AND ARMED GUARDS, TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE HAVE NOTS. NONE OF US WANT OUR CIVILIZATION TO BE DESTROYED IN THIS WAY.

IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, I AM AN OPTIMIST. WIDE
RECOGNITION OF PROBLEM WHICH IS HAPPENING AND
INCREASING THE EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY CAN MAKE OUR
EDUCATION SYSTEM WHAT IT SHOULD BE. BUT ONLY IF EACH
OF US IS COMMITTED TO THIS DIFFICULT PROCESS OF
CHANGE.

