

Talking Points
Dr. Boyer's Remarks
Washington Legislative Conference of the National PTA
March 13, 1979 8:00 a.m.

Education has fared particularly well under the Carter administration. In the past two years:

- o The budget of the U.S. Office of Education has increased 40 percent to close to 12 billion dollars.
- o The paperwork burden for school administrators using Federal funds has been cut back substantially.
- o The enactment of the Middle Income Student Assistance Act has opened Federal student financial aid to virtually all students instead of only the poor and disadvantaged.

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Looking ahead, the Carter administration is not content to rest on its past accomplishments in education. Some of the highlights of the President's proposed budget for the 1980 fiscal year beginning next October 1 include:

- I. An increase of \$221 million in programs benefitting the disadvantaged. This means:

o An additional 900,000 educationally disadvantaged children would benefit from a new provision of the Education Amendments of 1978, under which additional funds will be concentrated on the neediest school districts in 1979 and 1980.

o An additional 150,000 handicapped children will be reached through ^eincreased State and Federal efforts to provide a free and appropriate education for all handicapped children.

o About 10 more cities will receive Federal support to help implement voluntary and court-ordered desegregation plans as well as to support innovative desegregation activities such as magnet schools.

o About 21,000 additional bilingual and Indian students will benefit from expanded educational services targeted to their special needs.

II. The budget also is designed to improve educational quality and the delivery of services, such as basic skills and school health, and to reduce youth unemployment:

- o Basic Skills: An increase of \$9 million for an expanded Basic Skills Improvement program, encompassing not only reading, but all of the basic skills and a new program of Achievement Testing Assistance.

- o School Health: \$2 million to initiate a new program to improve the health of elementary and secondary children through the establishment of school health programs and services as part of the overall HEW Prevention Initiative.

- o Youth Employment: A total of \$2 million is included to begin linking education and work activities with youth employment programs at the Department of Labor and to support technical assistance and information dissemination to State and local education personnel.

III. Department of Education

I'm a real believer in the need to create a Department of Education; someone has to defend education needs around the Cabinet table.

The President has said education has come up only twice at Cabinet meetings in two years, even though educating our children is one of the top functions of this Nation.

I know Congress is unenthusiastic about this plan because of the impression we're trying to control educational policy nationwide from Washington. But that doesn't make sense. Labor is represented in the Cabinet, so is transportation - but Washington doesn't control those two areas.

IV. Looking Ahead

Through the year 2000 I believe:

- o Elementary schools will put more emphasis on teaching basic skills and will improve student achievement as a result.

- o High schools will become transition schools, with some students doing community internships as learning experiences, others attending special interest schools in fields like the arts or languages.

o Colleges will find an older student population, and tailor courses to special interests at a variety of locations around a community. Business and industry will become more involved in continuing education.

o Television will become a major teaching tool in both the classroom and the home.

o The Federal Government probably will have to start giving school districts general revenue funds as well as special revenue assistance. There will have to be a major realignment of school financing because local governments will not be able to do it alone.

We're going to take the time, I think, to re-evaluate and re-invest in education.