

OFFICE OF
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NOTE

APR 9 1979

NOTE TO DR. BOYER--

Here are talking points for your meeting
with graduate students here on April 20.

PR
Peggy Rhoades

Attachment

Talking Points

Dr. Boyer's remarks to graduate students at round-table discussion in Assistant Secretary's Conference Room

April 20, 1979

It seems as if the higher education community has taken over Washington this week and Russell Edgerton is leading the invasion. I assume most of the graduate students here today attended sessions of the AAHE convention that ended yesterday. I want to congratulate you again, Russ, for the fine agenda of the convention. With speakers like Frank Newman, Steve Bailey and Harold Hodgekinson--not to mention Art Buchwald and his "fall" guys--anything I say at this time might seem like an effort to gild the lily.

I'm happy that this particular study tour is co-sponsored by the AAHE, the Association for the Study of Higher Education, and the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education. It's great that these three organizations have continued a program that Joe Cosand started some years ago at the University of Michigan. Joe, of course, served for a time as the U.S. Office of Education's Associate Commissioner for Higher Education, and Russ was with the Office at that time.

Instead of reviewing all the issues facing higher education -- items that were the topics of the AAHE's four-day agenda -- I'd like to confine myself to a few which I believe will most affect your lives, either directly or indirectly.

1. As educators, students, and American citizens we must strengthen the bridge between academe and Government. There is an urgent need for an improved relationship, particularly in this era of public frustration with public institutions. We must create a deeper awareness of the need to protect the integrity of our colleges and universities. We must work toward a better appreciation of the enormous return that society receives from its investment in higher education.

2. We must build better bridges between higher education and the world of work. I'm sure this group is well aware of this. But too many others think of higher education as an end in itself, with no particular relationship to the work-a-day world. When young men and women enter our colleges and universities, they will benefit tremendously in later years, and enormously enrich their lives, if they choose their academic studies with an eye to the careers they will one day pursue.

Bridging higher education and the world of work is not a recent development. For example:

Harvard was founded not only to defend and perpetuate the Christian faith, but also to prepare young men for careers in the ministry, law, medicine, teaching, and other professions and pursuits. Harvard considered it part of its mission to teach students how to make their way in the world after graduation.

3. By fostering increased interest in international education we must help build bridges -- bridges of communication -- linking the nations of the world in a spirit of greater mutual understanding.

Less than two years ago President Sadat of Egypt built such a bridge. What he did illustrates the point I am making. He electrified the world by announcing that he would address the Israeli Parliament. Several days later, the world saw an Egyptian plane touch down on Israeli soil. Half a billion people, through today's communications processes, simultaneously felt their connectedness, immediately realized that their problems might be more effectively solved by cooperation than by conflict.

Our colleges and universities must confront the essential fact that education must include a global perspective. We must focus on the idea that a brotherhood of nations is a prelude to the long cherished dream of a brotherhood of all mankind.