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# Introduction

Aspen Institute 40th Anniversary Aug 2-5, 1990 Notes (1)

AT THE VERY OUTSET I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT WHILE MY COMMENTS THIS MORNING WERE [redacted] INSPIRED BY OUR PROVOCATIVE PANEL DISCUSSION FRIDAY NIGHT

THE CONCLUSIONS I PRESENT [redacted] ARE MINE & MINE ALONE

I TAKE COMFORT [redacted] FROM THE FACT WHO SAID

1) I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY SAY AT THE MEETING

2) JUST SO LONG AS I CAN READ THE MINUTES

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[redacted]

2

OUR GROUP BEGAN WITH THE PROPOSITION

[redacted] THAT

IF THE UNITED STATES IS TO BE

ECONOMICALLY, CIVICALLY, AND MORALLY EMPOWERED

SMALL

WE MUST HAVE A FIRST-RATE

EDUCATION SYSTEM

GOOD SCHOOLING UNDER GIRDS EVERYTHING

WE DO

IF WE HOPE

AND TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN Ed

[redacted]

THESE ARE 5 ESSENTIAL PRIORITIES FOR REFORM THAT MUST BE

VIGOROUSLY PURSUED

POVERTY

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3

1 FIRST WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PROBLEMS OF EDUCATION CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM PROBLEMS OF THE POOR

2 RECENT HARVARD REPORT ON HUNGER IN AMERICA UNEQUIVOCALLY CONCLUDED THAT A CHILD WHO IS NUTRITIONALLY DEPRIVED WILL HAVE

1 LOWER IQ

2 SHORTER ATTENTION SPAN

3 & GET LOWER GRADES IN SCHOOL

AND IT IS ALSO WELL ESTABLISHED THAT LITTLE CHILDREN WHO ARE LINGUISTICALLY DEPRIVED WILL BE

TRAGICALLY PERHAPS IRREVOCABLY HANDICAPPED AS WELL

AND YET - ISN'T IT IRONIC THAT

AT THE VERY TIME

THERE'S AN "URGENT PUSH"

FOR BETTER [redacted] IN THIS COUNTRY

SCHOOLING

THE FEDERAL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

ARE SHOCKINGLY UNDERFUNDED

I AM

ITS ALSO A

AND I - [redacted] NATIONAL DISGRACE

THAT 25 years AFTER HEAD START

WAS PUSHED BY CONGRESS

ONLY 50 PERCENT OF THE

"ELIGIBLE" CHILDREN

ARE BEING SERVED

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5

Winston Churchill observed on one occasion that

There is no finer investment for any [redacted] than putting milk into BABIES.

And [redacted] if the nation wants better schools

We simply must become more compassionate and more caring about our children — especially the least advantaged

This means

FULL FUNDING OF the HEAD START AND [redacted] CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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TEACHER

THIS BRINGS ME TO PRIORITY # 2

(1)

SCHOOLING

TO HAVE BETTER [redacted] The Cong

WE SIMPLY MUST GIVE MORE DIGNITY AND MORE STATUS TO OUR TEACHERS

THE HARSH TRUTH IS THAT

WHILE AMERICA HAS A LOVE AFFAIR WITH EDUCATION

WE ARE AT THE SAME TIME — ENORMOUSLY AMBIVALENT ABOUT TEACHERS

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7

We EXPECT TEACHERS

NOT ONLY TO TEACH THE BASICS

BUT ALSO TO

1. ELIMINATE GRAFFITI
2. STOP THE DRUGS
3. REDUCE TEEN AGE PREGNANCY
- & BE "MORAL MENTORS" TO OUR CHILDREN

AND IF THEY FAIL SHORT ANYWHERE ALONG THE LINE

WE CONDEMN THEM FOR NOT MEETING OUR IDEALIZED EXPECTATIONS

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8

In the end of course Excellence in Education means Excellence in TEACHING

And [redacted]

IF JAMES MADISON WOULD GIVE AS MUCH STATUS TO FIRST GRADE TEACHERS AS WE GIVE TO FULL PROFESSORS

THAT ONE ACT ALONE WOULD REVITALIZE THE NATION'S SCHOOLS

SURLEY ~~SURLEY~~

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TEACHERS NEED GOOD SALARIES (9)

BUT THEY ALSO NEED MORE DIGNITY & RECOGNITION

(1) AND FOR "OPENERS" LETS TURN OFF THE PA SYSTEM ~~WITH ITS~~ MINDLESS INTERRUPTIONS THAT BELCHES OUT

INCIDENTALLY, SEVERAL YEARS AGO I COMPLAINED TO A GROUP OF TEACHERS ABOUT THE PA SYSTEM THAT COMES ON "WITHOUT WARNING"

AFTERWARD A TEACHER CAME UP AND SAID

(1) THAT'S NOT TRUE

AT MY SCHOOL THEY GO WHEN WHEN

BEFORE MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT

4

PROVIDE ALL USERS (HOME & MOBILE) ACCESS
TO RELEVANT INFO THROUGH-
THE SCHOOL APP AND THE DEPT
WEBSITE WITH STUDENTS
WHILE THEY ARE STILL
IN JUNIOR HIGH

3

LETS [redacted] SUMMER INSTITUTES
AND MINI-SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS

[redacted]

2

LETS [redacted] HAVE A TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIVE ~~grant~~
IN CLASS SCHOOL

[redacted]

1

I'M adding TO SURVEY THE PTA

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11

AND FINALLY I'D LIKE TO SEE

GEORGE BUSH AS THE EDUCATION PRESIDENT

INVITE THE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

FROM ALL 50 STATES

TO A DINNER

IN THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE

[redacted]

THE GOAL WOULD BE TO

TO REMIND ALL AMERICANS

THAT TEACHERS ARE THE

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE NATION

II

HIGH [redacted] TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

WE MUST BREAK UP SCHOOLS INTO SMALLER UNITS

AND CREATE A CLIMATE THAT IS

BOTH MORE DISCIPLINED & MORE CARING

DURING OUR STUDY OF THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL

I BECAME CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE

1. NOT JUST A SCHOOL PROBLEM
2. BUT A YOUTH PROBLEM IN THE NATION

TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL

1. UNITED
2. ~~UNITED~~ UNITED
3. AND UNCONNECTED TO THE LARGER WORLD

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13

AND HIGH SCHOOLS THEMSELVES

PRE — ALL TOO OFTEN —

LIKE BIG FACTORIES WHERE STUDENTS

MOVE FACELESSLY FROM CLOSS TO CLASS

UNNOTICED BY ADULTS

[redacted]

AND MANY DROP OUT

PRECISELY BECAUSE NO ONE

NOTICED

THAT THEY AND - IN FACT -

DROPPED IN

FRANKY

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If I had just one wish

(14)

(1) I'D "BREAK UP" EVERY JR & SR HIGH SCHOOL INTO UNITS OF NO MORE THAN 400 STUDENTS EACH

(3) I'D ASSIGN EACH STUDENT TO A SMALL "FAMILY GROUP" OF [redacted] ~~THAN~~ 20 OTHER STUDENTS

TO MEET WITH A MENTOR FOR 30 MINUTES AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH DAY

(3) DO I'D HELP ALL STUDENTS FEEL NEEDED & BECOME "SOCIALLY ENGAGED"

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15

In the Carnegie Report High School
we proposed that all students complete
a Community Service Team
(1) in Day Care Centers
(2) in Retirement Villages
(3) or tutoring other kids at school

MARTIN LUTHER KING said [redacted]
THAT

EVERYONE can BE GREAT
BECAUSE EVERYONE can SERVE

And I'm convinced the
young people of this nation
are ready to be inspired
By A LARGER vision

IV GOALS

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11

THE 4th PRIORITY FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION RELATES TO (1) GOALS, (2) OUTCOMES

Its very strange that WITH ALL THE TALK ABOUT BETTER SCHOOLING [redacted] THIS NATION STILL CANNOT AGREE ON

(1) WHAT WE SHOULD BE TEACHING

(2) OR HOW TO "PRECISELY" MEASURE THE RESULTS

ITS LIKE TRYING TO RUN A RACE IN WHICH

NEITHER THE "COURSE" NOR THE "FINISH LINE HAVE BEEN DETERMINED.

TO ADD TO THE DILEMMA WE REMAIN ALMOST TOTALLY CONFUSED ABOUT WHOSE IN CHARGE!

1. FOR YEARS WE'VE WANTED BOTH "LOCAL" CONTROL AND NATIONAL RESULTS

2. AND WE'VE NOT KNOWN HOW TO MEDIATE THE TWO

BUT NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY AMERICANS ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT NATIONAL OUTCOMES THAN LOCAL SCHOOL CONTROL

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18

AND IM CONVINCED

ITS TIME TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL STANDARDS
FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTY

BUT ITS ALSO TIME TO GIVE LOTS
OF FLEXIBILITY TO LOCAL SCHOOL
IN PURSUIT OF THESE OBJECTIVES

ITS TIME
AND TO HOLD EACH SCHOOL ACCOUNTABLE
FOR OUTCOMES
NOT PROCEDURES

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(19)

FINALLY I'D LIKE TO SEE A

BLUE RIBBON

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

[redacted] THE Goal of such a Council

would be

TO GATHER ALL THE DATA

AND REPORT [redacted]

[redacted] ON HOW THE SCHOOLS

ARE DOING.

BUT

REGARDLESS OF THE MECHANISM USED

I'M CONVINCED THAT WHAT

MUST HAVE EVIDENCE

THAT IT'S 200 BILLION

ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

IS PAYING OFF.

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I PARTNERSHIP

THE LAST PRIORITY RELATES TO PARTNERSHIPS

TODAY ALMOST EVERYONE IS TELLING SCHOOLS HOW THEY SHOULD SHAPE UP.

BUT SCHOOLS SIMPLY CANNOT DO THE JOB ALONE

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PARENTS ARE THE FIRST & MOST ESSTIAL TEACHERS

20

AND YET LAST YEAR
WHEN WE SURVEYED 20,000 TEACHERS

70 % SAID THAT "LACK OF PARENTAL SUPPORT IS A PROBLEM AT THEIR SCHOOL

AND WHEN WE SURVEYED 5000
5TH & 8TH GRADERS [redacted]

(1) 40 PERCENT SAID — THEY GO HOME EVERY AFTERNOON TO AN EMPTY HOUSE

(2) 60 PERCENT SAID — THEY WISH THEY COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEIR MOTHERS & THEIR FATHERS

(3) AND 30 PERCENT SAID THEIR FAMILY "NEVER" SITS DOWN TOGETHER TO EAT A MEAL.

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(21)

FRANKLY

I'm Beginning to Believe that

The FAMILY is a more Imperiled Institution

THAN THE SCHOOL

And THAT Good schooling Simply

MUST BEGIN AT HOME

(1) As Parents turn off TV

(2) READ ALOUD to CHILDREN

(3) And check the Homework, too

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22

But Corporate America Also has a Partnership Role to PLAY

1. THROUGH PUBLIC ADVOCY FOR SCHOOLS
2. THROUGH funding ~~SCHOOL~~ experimental PROJECTS
3. a THROUGH GOOD FAMILY POLY AT THE WORK PLACE

SPECIFICALLY, I'D LIKE TO SEE ALL EMPLOYERS GIVE ~~PARENTS~~ WORKERS PARENTS SEVERAL DAYS ~~TIME~~ OFF WITH PAY EACH YEAR

SO ~~PARENTS~~ they could spend TIME WITH THEIR CHILDREN AS THE mother TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL.

I'm saying THAT WE CANNOT HAVE
AN ISLAND OF EXCELLENCE
IN A SEA OF INDIFFERENCE

AND THAT IS TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION

WE MUST HAVE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

BETWEEN ① THE HOME AND SCHOOLS

② AND THE COMMUNITIES
THAT SURROUND THEM

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21

CONCLUSION

HERE THEN IS MY CONCLUSION

TO REBUILD THE NATIONS SCHOOLS WE MUST HAVE

1. PRESCHOOL INTERVENTION
2. TEACHER RECOGNITION
3. N SCHOOL CLIMATE THATS ~~[illegible]~~ BOTH DISCIPLINED & CARING
4. NATIONAL STANDARDS WITH LOCAL SCHOOL CONTROL
5. AND WE MUST HAVE PARTNERSHIPS AS WELL

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25

AND FRANKLY -
FOR ALL OF THIS TO HAPPEN

→ MONEY IS FAR LESS IMPORTANT
THAN LEADERSHIP & WILL

WE NEED LEADERS WHO CARE FAR MORE
ABOUT OUR CHILDREN

1 THAN ABOUT SDI ~~SEAWARD~~

2 no dat AND SENDING SATTELITES
TO MARS

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26

FRANKLY I FIND IT DISTURBING

THAT HALF THE INNER CITY CHILDREN

WHO WILL ~~GO TO~~ ENTER FIRST GRADE

~~IN THE~~ THIS FALL

WILL DROP OUT BEFORE

RECEIVING A DIPLOMAL

AS YET NO NATL EMERGENCY HAS BEEN

IS DECLARED

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I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT

27

IF SNOW WAS PILING UP ON CITY STREETS

OR IF GARBAGE LINED THE CURB

TOP OFFICIALS WOULD MEET ROUND-THE-CLOCK UNTIL A SOLUTION HAD BEEN REACHED

BUT WHEN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN LEAVE SCHOOL - YEAR AFTER YEAR - CIVICALLY & ECONOMICALLY UNEMPOWERED

WE HAVE FAR MORE TALK THAN ACTION

This Nation simply Cannot Survive a System that Tragically Divides the Winners and the Losers

Our Goal in Education must be Equity and Excellence for All

James Agee wrote [redacted] that with Every Child who is Born under no matter what Circumstance the Potential of the Human Race is Born Again

This is the Vision and the Mandate that [redacted] must be Vigorously Reaffirmed