

The original documents are located in Box D28, folder “Lee High School P.T.A., Founders Day Meeting, Wyoming, MI, February 9, 1970” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NOTES

GRAND RAPIDS

FEB. 9, 1970

Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Gerald R. Ford
M.C.

LEE HIGH SCHOOL PTA

FOUNDERS DAY MEETING

WYOMING, MICHIGAN



LEE HIGH SCHOOL PTA...FOUNDERS DAY MTG...2/9/70
WYOMING MICH.

1. WE ARE ~~ARE~~ HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE WE ARE DEEPLY
E
CONCERNED...CONCERNED ABOUT ALL OF AMERICA'S PROBLEMS
BUT PRIMARILY THE EXCELLENCE OF EDUCATION.

2. LET ME SAY ~~TM~~ AT THE OUTSET THAT I YIELD TO NOONE
IN MY CONCERN ABOUT EDUCATION. I THINK THAT THROUGH
QUALITY EDUCATION AND GOOD JOBS WE CAN LICK THE
PROBLEM OF POVERTY IN THIS COUNTRY AND IMPROVE ~~THE~~

2/ LEE PTA

THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ENTIRE NATION.

3. IF WE ARE DEEPLY ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ CONCERNED WITH
QUALITY EDUCATION, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES HOW QUALITY
EDUCATION IS TO BE ACHIEVED ~~INEX~~ AND WHAT WE MUST DO
TO ACHIEVE IT.

4. I HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED...AND I ~~AM~~ ASSERT AGAIN
TONIGHT...THAT THE ~~BEST/IMPORTANT/ONE~~ FOUNDATION OF
QUALITY EDUCATION IS QUALITY SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

3/ LEE PTA

5. I AM TALKING ABOUT ~~QUALITY~~ BOTH ~~E~~ ADMINISTRATIVE AND TEACHING PERSONNEL...BUT PRIMARILY ABOUT TEACHERS.

6. THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD TEACHERS. WITHOUT FINE TEACHERS, ~~WE~~[#] HAVE NOTHING IN OUR ~~EXCELLENT~~ SCHOOLS.

7. TO HAVE FINE TEACHERS, WE MUST HAVE ~~AXXXXXXXXXX~~ THE PROPER INGREDIENTS FOR A QUALITY EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT IN A COMMUNITY.

4/ LEE PTA

8. WE MUST HAVE A COMMUNITY WHICH HONORS ITS TEACHERS...HONORS THEM BY ACCORDING THEM THE PRESTIGE AND STANDING THEY DESERVE...AND ALSO HONORS THEM BY PAYING ~~ITHEM~~ A SALARY COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR

TRAINING, THEIR ABILITY, AND THE ~~IMPORANT~~ ~~ROLES~~ ~~THEY~~ INFLUENCE THEY EXERT ON THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

9. AS FOR THE TEACHERS, ~~THEREXX~~ A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ~~SE~~ UPON THEM. WHATEVER THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES

5/ LEE PTA

AVAILABLE TO THEM, IT HAS BEEN PROVEN TIME AND AGAIN THAT AN EXCELLENT TEACHER IS ABLE TO IMPART KNOWLEDGE AND A BURNING DESIRE FOR LEARNING TO HIS OR HER PUPILS, REGARDLESS OF DEFICIENCIES IN PHYSICAL SURROUNDINGS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE ~~DO~~ DO NOT WANT THE BEST WE CAN PROVIDE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS. BUT IT IS TO SAY...AND ~~THE~~ E

6/ LEE PTA

TO EMPHASIZE...THAT THE TEACHER IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN THE ~~LEARNING~~ PROCESS.

10. THAT ~~HE~~ LEADS ME TO THIS POINT. EDUCATION STILL IS...AND SHOULD BE...PRIMARILY A STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY. THERE ~~IS~~ IS A FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY, BUT IT IS SECONDARY TO THAT OF THE STATE AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

77 LEE PTA

11. I WOULD ALSO MAKE THE POINT THAT ~~XXX~~ WHILE ADEQUATE FUNDING IS NEEDED TO ATTRACT COMPETENT TEACHERS, ~~XXX~~ HIGH PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURES DO ~~NOT~~ NOT AUTOMATICALLY GUARANTEE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.

12. NO, WE MUST CONSTANTLY EVALUATE ~~THESE~~ OUR ~~SCHOOLS~~ SCHOOLS, MEASURE THE RESULTS, DETERMINE IF AND WHERE THE RESULTS ARE DEFICIENT, AND ~~THEN~~ THEN MAKE UP THE LACK.

8/ LEE PTA

13. THE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR Kindergarten through 12th GRADE SCHOOLING IS THAT OF THE STATE. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ~~AND~~ THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST SUPPLEMENT AND MUST CONSTANTLY SERVE AS A PROD, AS SHARP OVERSEERS, TO TRY TO MAKE THE EDUCATIONAL PRODUCT THE BEST POSSIBLE.

9/ LEE PTA

14. HAVING SAID THAT, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS PROPOSING AS A HELP TO THE STATES AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN FISCAL 1971.

15. FEDERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS WILL STRESS:

a. A PROGRAM OF EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOLS AND ~~AND~~ OTHER RESEARCH ~~TE~~ AND ~~ANDE~~ EVALUATION EFFORTS TO DISCOVER WHAT ACTIVITIES INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

10/ LEE PTA

b. EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS AND ON EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL.

c. GREATER ATTENTION TO CHILDREN DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS ~~WOOKE~~ OF LIFE.

d. PROPOSED NEWEX PROGRAMS OF REVENUE SHARING WITH THE CITIES AND STATES AND WELFARE REFORM WHICH WILL EASE THE WELFARE BURDEN OF THE STATES, AND THUS HELP

11/ LEE PTA

FREE MORE STATE AND LOCAL DOLLARS FOR SCHOOLS.

e. INITIATION OF EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE 'RIGHT TO READ' GOAL FOR THE 70's.

f. CONSOLIDATIONS, REDUCTIONS AND ELIMINATIONS OF EXISTING LOWER PRIORITY PROGRAMS OF CATEGORICAL FEDERAL AID...SUCH AS FOR SO-CALLED FEDERALLY IMPACTED SCHOOLS.

12/ LEE PTA

g. EXPANSION OF MAJOR CULTURAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES, AND THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

h. AND A NATIONAL REVIEW DIRECTED AT REFORM OF THE BASIC FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF ELEMENTARY ~~AND~~ AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

13/ LEE PTA

16. THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED FAR SHORT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

17. THE FACTS~~XX~~ ARE THAT ~~KNOW~~ FEDERAL OUTLAYS FOR EDUCATION HAVE GROWN FROM LESS THAN ~~IX~~ 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN 1960 TO MORE THAN 5 BILLION IN 1971. ~~xxxxxx~~

18. TOTAL FEDERAL SPENDING FOR EDUCATION, INCLUDING

14/ LEE PTA

GRADUATE TRAINING, ACADEMIC RESEARCH, VETERANS EDUCATION BENEFITS AND OTHER PROGRAMS, WILL EXCEED \$10 BILLION FOR 1971 COMPARED WITH \$2 BILLION IN 1961.

19. OUTLAYS ESTIMATED AT \$2.7 BILLION IN 1971 WILL SUPPORT A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS AND OTHER HANDICAPS.

15/ IEE PTA

20. I WOULD ALSO CALL ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT A NEW OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH*EDUCATION*AND*WELFARE. THIS WILL PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION FOR ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN. THE PRESCHOOL PERIOD IS CRITICAL BECAUSE THIS ~~IN~~ IS WHEN EDUCATIONAL DEPRIVATION OFTEN BEGINS AND THE FUTURE COURSE OF A LIFE MAY BE DETERMINED.

16/ IEE PTA

21. THE FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION IS INDEED EXPANDING, BUT THE MERE PROVIDING OF MORE FEDERAL ~~E~~ DOLLARS IS NOT THE ANSWER TO ACHIEVING QUALITY EDUCATION.

22. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO GREATER FEDERAL AID TO SCHOOLS, THROUGH DIRECT AID AND THROUGH FEDERAL REVENUE~~SHARING~~ SHARING, BUT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE^{THAT} FEDERAL, AND STATE AND LOCAL_L DOLLARS AS WELL, WILL BUY SOMETHING.

17/ EEE PTA

23. IT WILL DO LITTLE GOOD TO PROVIDE MORE DOLLARS
FOR TEACHER SALARIES ~~WHICH~~^{TO} ATTRACT GOOD TEACHERS
IF THE VALUE~~EX~~ OF THOSE DOLLARS CONSTANTLY KEEPS
DROPPING.

24. AND SO THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED...AND ~~SE~~ SHOULD
WE ALL BE...WITH NOT JUST HOW MANY DOLLARS WE HAVE TO
SPEND FOR SCHOOLS AND OTHER PURPOSES BUT WITH WHAT THOSE
DOLLARS WILL BUY.

18/ EEE PTA

25. WE DO HAVE A FINANCIAL CRISIS IN OUR SCHOOL
~~IS~~
AFFAIRS. BUT LET US FACE IT SQUARELY. LET US FACE
IT WITH COMMON SENSE. LET US NOT BLAME THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT FOR IT, OR LOOK TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TO BAIL US OUT. LET US JOIN HANDS IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO KEEP OUR DOLLAR AS
SOUND AS POSSIBLE AND TO USE ALL OF OUR EDUCATION*
AVAILABLE DOLLARS TO ACHIEVE ~~THE~~.

19/ LEE PTA

THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR OUR BOYS ~~AND~~ AND
GIRLS. WE CANNOT DO MORE. TO DO LESS WOULD BE TO
SHIRK A SACRED TRUST. I AM SURE NOONE HERE WILL
BE FOUND WANTING.

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