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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

BROADCAST MESSAGE ON EDUCATION

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

IN THE PAST DECADE, WHILE EDUCATION HAS  
REMAINED A LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY, WE HAVE RESPONDED  
AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS PERCEIVED  
TO BE OF NATIONAL SCOPE. WE HAVE TRIED TO IMPROVE  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. BUT IN THE PROCESS  
WE HAVE ALSO CREATED A HEAVY BURDEN OF REGULATIONS  
AND RED TAPE.

TOO OFTEN WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES ASKING  
WHETHER FEDERAL FORMS HAVE BEEN PROPERLY FILLED OUT,  
NOT WHETHER CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PROPERLY EDUCATED.

THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A TENDENCY TOWARD GREATER  
CENTRAL CONTROL OVER DECISIONS WHICH SHOULD BE MADE  
BY LOCAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS•

THE TIME HAS COME TO PROVIDE FEDERAL SUPPORT  
WITHOUT FEDERAL IMPEDIMENTS•

FOR THAT REASON, I AM PROPOSING TODAY  
THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION ACT. IT WOULD CONSOLIDATE 24 EXISTING  
PROGRAMS INTO ONE BLOCK GRANT.

THE FOCUS OF MY PROPOSAL WILL BE ON IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS --

THE HANDICAPPED AND THE EDUCATIONALLY DEPRIVED•

FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A MINIMUM OF

FEDERAL REGULATION AND A MAXIMUM OF LOCAL CONTROL•

EDUCATION NEEDS CAN BE MET MOST EFFECTIVELY

BY GIVING PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THE TOOLS TO DO

THE JOB WELL.



UNDER THE LEGISLATION I PROPOSE, EVERY STATE  
WILL RECEIVE AT LEAST AS MUCH MONEY FOR THE CONSOLIDATED  
PROGRAM AS IT DID IN FISCAL YEAR 1976 FOR THE EXISTING  
PROGRAMS. I AM REQUESTING A TOTAL OF 3.3 BILLION DOLLARS  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977. I AM ALSO PROPOSING THAT THE  
PROGRAM GROW BY 200 MILLION DOLLARS IN EACH OF THE  
NEXT THREE FISCAL YEARS.

FOR TOO LONG, THE REAL ISSUE IN OUR EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS -- FEDERAL VERSUS LOCAL CONTROL -- HAS BEEN  
OBSCURED BY DEBATE OVER FUNDING LEVELS. HOPEFULLY,  
WITH THE FUNDING LEVELS I AM PROPOSING, WE CAN DIRECT  
THE DEBATE WHERE IT BELONGS -- TO REFORM OF OUR  
EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS.

I URGE THE CONGRESS TO ACT QUICKLY AND  
FAVORABLY ON MY PROPOSAL, TO HELP ENSURE QUALITY  
EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.

END OF TEXT