

# TOWARD FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

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...I propose that the Eighty-ninth Congress join me in extending the commitment still further. I propose that we declare a national goal of Full Educational Opportunity.

Every child must be encouraged to get as much education as he has the ability to take.

We want this not only for his sake—but for the nation's sake.

Nothing matters more to the future of our country: not our military preparedness—for armed might is worthless if we lack the brain power to build a world of peace; not our productive economy—for we cannot sustain growth without trained manpower; not our democratic system of government—for freedom is fragile if citizens are ignorant.

We must demand that our schools increase not only the quantity but the quality of America's education. For we recognize that nuclear age problems cannot be solved with horse-and-buggy learning. The three R's of our school system must be supported by the three T's—teachers who are superior, techniques of instruction that are modern, and thinking about education which places it first in all our plans and hopes.

Specifically, four major tasks confront us:

- to bring better education to millions of disadvantaged youth who need it most;
- to put the best educational equipment and ideas and innovations within reach of all students;
- to advance the technology of teaching and the training of teachers;
- to provide incentives for those who wish to learn at every stage along the road to learning....

In all that we do, we mean to strengthen our state and community education system. Federal assistance does not mean federal control—as past programs have proven....

## I. PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Education must begin with the very young. The child from the urban or rural slum frequently misses his chance even before he begins school....

## II. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Elementary and secondary schools are the foundation of our education system....

### A. AID TO LOW-INCOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS

I recommend that legislation be enacted to authorize a major program of assistance to public elementary and secondary schools serving children of low-income families....

### B. SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

I recommend legislation to authorize Federal grants to States to assist in the purchase of books for school libraries and for student use, to be made available to children in public and private....

### C. SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATIONAL CENTERS AND SERVICES

I recommend a program of Federal grants for supplementary education centers and services within the community....

### D. REGIONAL EDUCATION LABORATORIES

I recommend the establishment under the Cooperative Research Act of regional educational laboratories which will undertake research, train teachers, and implement tested research findings....

### E. STRENGTHENING STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

I recommend a program of grants to State educational agencies....

## III. HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is no longer a luxury, but a necessity....

### A. ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS

I recommend a program of scholarships for needy and qualified high school graduates to enable them to enter and to continue in college...

I recommend guaranteed Low-Interest Loans...

### B. AID TO SMALLER COLLEGES

I recommend that legislation be enacted to strengthen less developed colleges....

### C. SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE LIBRARY RESOURCES

I recommend enactment of legislation for purchase of books and library materials to strengthen college teaching and research....

### D. UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROGRAM

I recommend a program of grants to support university extension concentrating on problems of the community....

### E. SPECIAL MANPOWER NEEDS

We must also ask the colleges and universities to help overcome certain acute deficiencies in trained manpower....

## CONCLUSION

CONSTITUTION 201:  
THE PROGRESSIVE REJECTION OF THE FOUNDING AND THE RISE OF BUREAUCRATIC DESPOTISM

We are now embarked on another venture to put the American dream to work in meeting the new demands of a new day. Once again we must start where men who would improve their society have always known they must begin — with an educational system restudied, reinforced, and revitalized.



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