

*Nancy - Strong  
Peach - Long - was Home Taft  
Half with - Speech*

*Nov. '76*

IN MY FIRST STATE OF THE STATE MESSAGE IN JANUARY OF 1975  
I STATED, "THE QUEST TO IMPROVE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY IN SOUTH  
CAROLINA MUST NEVER STOP, FOR EDUCATION IS A SACRED POSSESSION  
OF WHICH MAN CANNOT BE ROBBED, AND IS ONE OF THE BEST INDICATIONS  
OF OUR STATE'S PROGRESS." I AM THE SON OF EDUCATORS AND MY LOVE  
AND RESPECT FOR THE PROFESSION HAS NOT WAIVERED.

EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA MUST REMAIN A TOP PRIORITY.  
~~WE HAVE~~ MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS. SIX MILLION DOLLARS IN  
FEDERAL FUNDS WERE CHANNELED INTO EXPANDING THE KINDERGARTEN,  
PAYING TEACHERS, TEACHERS AIDES, MAINTENANCE, CUSTODIANS AND  
SECURITY PERSONNEL. *(Cyril Bunsbee)*

IT NOW APPEARS THAT OUR TEACHERS ~~CAN~~ <sup>more of</sup> DEVOTE THEIR TIME TO  
TEACHING RATHER THAN SERVING AS DISCIPLINARIANS. THIS IS A TRIBUTE  
TO YOU, THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY, AND THE LAW ABIDING  
CITIZENS OF OUR STATE. PERHAPS PHILOSOPHICALLY ~~WE HAVE OUR~~  
*are now* ~~HEADS TOGETHER NOW~~ AND CAN LOOK TO THE FUTURE AS AN EDUCATIONAL  
EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN A SOCIAL EXPERIMENT.

YES, ~~WE HAVE~~ COME A LONG WAY. WE ARE REACHING OUT TO NEW  
HORIZONS IN EDUCATION. I AM PARTICULARLY PROUD OF THE SCHOOL  
FOR SUPERIOR AND TALENTED STUDENTS WHICH WAS SUCCESSFULLY  
CONDUCTED <sup>last summer</sup> BY THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON. — *and for the work  
many of you have developed in this area.*

I AM ALSO PLEASED WITH THE EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP WE HAVE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION. MORE AND MORE OF OUR TOP COLLEGE GRADUATES ARE CHOOSING EDUCATION AS THEIR LIFE'S WORK. THEIR TALENTS CAN WELL BE USED / AS WE SEEK TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

LOOKING TO FUTURE NEEDS / I HAVE A LIST OF PRIORITIES, THE GREATEST OF WHICH IS TO BRING ABOUT EQUALIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

THE CONCEPT IS FAR SIMPLER / THAN THE IMPLEMENTATION. IN DOLLARS PER PUPIL /, WE RANGED FROM \$568 TO OVER A THOUSAND DOLLARS. IN 1969, THE DIFFERENTIAL RANGE WAS \$184 PER PUPIL /, TODAY IT IS \$436 PER PUPIL. OVER A 12-YEAR PERIOD OF TIME, WE ARE SPENDING AS MUCH AS \$5,232 MORE / ON ONE STUDENT THAN ON ANOTHER.

MONEY ALONE HAS NEVER BEEN A CURE-ALL / BUT BETTER PERSONNEL /, BETTER CLASSROOMS / AND BETTER EDUCATION FACILITIES MUST ENHANCE THE TOTAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

~~an undesirable fringe benefit~~  
THERE IS A SIDE EFFECT TO EQUALIZATION - THE UNEVEN TAX BURDEN ON PROPERTY OWNERS. PROPERTY TAXES TO SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOLS VARY FROM 48 MILS. TO 193 MILS. IN DOLLARS /, THE RANGE IS FROM A LOW OF \$46 TO A HIGH OF \$154 / BASED ON A \$20,000 HOME.

*Funding the foundation programs will lessen*  
*often the millage is highest in the districts that can least afford to pay it.*

GENTLEMEN, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF GRAPPLING WITH

EQUALIZATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA. OVER EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO, I ESTABLISHED A STATEWIDE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INDEPT STUDY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING. THE STUDY LAID THE GROUND WORK FOR THE EQUALIZATION BILL. I TRUST OUR STATE LEGISLATURE WILL GIVE <sup>top</sup> PRIORITY TO THIS NEED. THE CHANGES WE RECOMMEND ARE ~~GOOD~~ <sup>much</sup> needed.

THERE WILL BE A CLINIC ON EQUALIZATION FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. THIS, SO I AM TOLD, WILL BE A NUTS AND BOLTS SESSION WHICH SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED. YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF EQUALIZATION WITH MEMBERS OF MY STAFF, ~~AND~~ SENATOR WADDELL, AND REPRESENTATIVE THEODORE.

I HAVE LONG BEEN A PROPONENT OF INCLUDING FREE ENTERPRISE DOCTRINE INTO ALL SCHOOL CURRICULUM. WHY FREE ENTERPRISE? BECAUSE IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR DEMOCRACY //... IT IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR ECONOMIC REALITY //... OUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE BETTER INFORMED ON THIS SYSTEM SO THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THE FACTS OF <sup>American</sup> LIFE. THE COLD HARD FACTS ABOUT MONEY //... PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

*Recent national issue*

*Where do dollars come from in Govt? Who pays that on corporations?*

I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH SOME PROVOKING QUESTIONS.

- 1) DO WE REALLY NEED AN ADEQUATE PAY SCHEDULE FOR TEACHERS?
- 2) DO WE WANT FREE TEXTBOOKS FOR GRADES 1-12?

3) DO WE REALLY NEED TO IMPROVE BASIC SKILLS IN READING,  
WRITING AND COMPUTATIONS?

4) WILL YOU HELP ME CARRY THIS MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNTAINS  
OF THE PIEDMONT TO THE SAND DUNES BY THE SEA. *across S.C.*

*Budget / problems:*

*16 M ↓*

*Anttman agreement*

*Prove 8% — including wirements -*