

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS
S. C. ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 9, 1976

Cynthia Anthony
Wate Roger
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PRESIDENT BROWN, DR. BUSBEE, MEMBERS OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS,
WIVES, AND FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION: *upper crust*

IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE SO LARGE A GATHERING OF
FRIENDS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AT HILTON HEAD. ROGER KIRK
TELLS ME THAT WHEN HE ATTENDED HIS FIRST WINTER CONFERENCE
OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, THERE WERE FORTY-SEVEN
PERSONS REGISTERED. THE NUMBER PRESENT TONIGHT SHOWS
EITHER THAT WE HAVE GREATLY INCREASED INTEREST IN EDUCATION
OR THAT THE LURE OF HILTON HEAD EVEN IN *cold* JANUARY IS IRRESISTIBLE.

I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT, IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN
A TWENTY PERCENT TURNOVER IN SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS IN
THIS STATE EACH YEAR. THIS YEAR, OF THE 286 JUNIOR AND SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOLS IN SOUTH CAROLINA, THIRTEEN PERCENT HAVE NEW
PRINCIPALS. THIRTY-FOUR HAVE PERSONS WHO ASSUMED THE JOB OF
PRINCIPAL FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS SEEMS A LARGE TURNOVER IN
A CAREER AREA THAT NEEDS A HIGH DEGREE OF PERMANENCE. WHETHER
YOU ARE NEW ON THE JOB OR A VETERAN OF THE WARS OF HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPALS, I WISH TO COMMEND YOU FOR SELECTING EDUCATION AS
A CAREER. I ALSO WISH TO CHALLENGE YOU TO REMEMBER THAT YOU
ARE DEALING WITH OUR STATE'S MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY, ITS YOUTH.
YOURS CANNOT BE AN EIGHT-HOUR-A-DAY JOB. THERE ARE FEW JOBS
MORE DEMANDING THAN THAT OF A GOOD HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

I know - my father was one -

I AM AWARE THAT TO BE A REALLY SUCCESSFUL PRINCIPAL, YOU MUST SPEND THE DAY TALKING TO/AND LISTENING TO STUDENTS/ OBSERVING, AND SUPERVISING FACULTY,/LISTENING TO, AND PLACATING PARENTS,/AND DEALING WITH THE COMMUNITY. I KNOW THAT YOU MUST DEAL WITH BUS ROUTES/~~AND PROBLEMS~~, BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ACTIVITIES,/ATHLETIC EVENTS,/BAND AND CHORUS CONCERTS,/AND ALL THE OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. I BELIEVE THAT TO BE A GOOD PRINCIPAL,/YOU MUST SAVE THE REAMS OF PAPERWORK FOR NIGHTS AND SATURDAYS/SO YOU CAN WORK WITH PEOPLE DURING SCHOOL HOURS. MY HOPE IS/THAT IN ALL OF THIS/ YOU ^{always}REMEMBER TO PUT EDUCATION AND THE STUDENT FIRST. YOU MUST REQUIRE ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES TO BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE, AND HAVE BASIC SKILLS IN MATHEMATICS. GRADUATES MUST BE PREPARED EITHER TO ENTER COLLEGE OR TO GO INTO THE LABOR MARKET/AS WELL AS ~~TO~~ ENJOY THEIR INCREASED LEISURE TIME. FOR YOU TO BE A SUCCESSFUL PRINCIPAL,/YOUR STUDENTS MUST REACH THESE MINIMUM GOALS. NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE PRIME TARGET OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS/IS THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUTH. IT'S ~~IS~~ YOUR MISSION TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE AND,/AT THE SAME TIME,/HELP THEM ~~TO~~ COPE WITH THE PRESENT. I REALIZE/^{regret}THAT WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND THAT YOU ^{replace}REPLACE THE HOME AND FAMILY,/THAT YOU PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL EXPERIMENTS,/AND THAT YOU TEACH MORAL VALUES WITHOUT TEACHING CHRISTIAN ETHICS; IT BECOMES EASY TO BE DISCOURAGED AND TO LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR PRIME OBJECTIVE. ^{allegations}DON'T BECOME DISCOURAGED; THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE, NOT IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, WHO ARE EAGER AND WILLING TO COME TO YOUR ASSISTANCE.

THERE ARE SEVERAL EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN ~~THE FIELD OF~~ EDUCATION IN OUR STATE.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE LAST MONTH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT MY ALMA MATER, THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON. DR. STERN HAS INITIATED AN EXCITING IDEA IN THIS SUMMER PROGRAM FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. THE SCHOOL WILL LAST FOR SIX WEEKS, FROM JUNE 13 TO JULY 24. THE SCHOOL WILL HOST ABOUT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY STUDENTS SELECTED FROM THE UPPER FIVE PERCENT OF THEIR SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR CLASSES. DURING THIS SIX-WEEKS PERIOD, EACH STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PURSUE AN IN-DEPTH STUDY IN AN ACADEMIC CONCENTRATION IN ONE OF FOUR AREAS: BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY, / MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS, / SOCIAL SCIENCE OR LANGUAGE / AND COMMUNICATION ARTS. THERE WILL BE COUNSELING IN CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, SELF-EXPRESSION SKILLS, AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT. THERE WILL BE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION, TOURS OF CHARLESTON AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS, CREATIVE WORKSHOPS, AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. TUITION, ROOM, BOARD, AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED WITHOUT COST. STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE, TO STUDY, AND TO WORK. IT SHOULD BE A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THE FUTURE LEADERS OF OUR STATE. TOO OFTEN THE ACADEMICALLY GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS RECEIVE BENIGN NEGLECT. THEY LEARN AND ACHIEVE IN SPITE OF SOCIETY. HOWEVER, ALL TOO OFTEN, THEY ARE NOT CHALLENGED AND NEVER DEVELOP THEIR MINDS TO EVEN A PORTION OF THEIR POTENTIAL.

This is an opportunity ^{to} ~~WE MUST~~ TRAIN THESE LEADERS OF TOMORROW. THAT IS PERHAPS YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGE. I HOPE ALL OF YOU WILL URGE YOUR ACADEMICALLY GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR THIS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL. YOUR SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT WILL HELP TO MAKE THIS SCHOOL A SUCCESS.

I SOLICIT YOUR ASSISTANCE AND SUGGESTIONS IN MAKING IT A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ^{selected} A FEW OF THE TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR STATE.

A SECOND ITEM OF INTEREST AND CONCERN TO ME IS THE NEED TO TEACH TO ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS THE NECESSARY FUNDAMENTALS OF CONSUMER ECONOMICS AND THE PRINCIPALS OF THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

WHEN I SPEAK OF THE NEED TO TEACH CONSUMER ECONOMICS, I AM REFERRING TO THE BASIC INFORMATION THAT A PERSON NEEDS TO SURVIVE AND TO ACHIEVE SOME MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN AMERICA TODAY. SOME EXAMPLES ARE: BUYING ON CREDIT, PURCHASING AND MAINTAINING A HOME, RENTING A HOME, BUDGETING FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR A FAMILY. YOU KNOW THE KINDS OF CONSUMER ECONOMICS I AM TALKING ABOUT, AND IF YOU REFLECT ON YOUR SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM YOU WILL REALIZE THAT ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF YOUR STUDENTS EVER HEAR ABOUT OR STUDY SUCH IMPORTANT TOPICS.

EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS CONSUMER ECONOMICS IS A CRYING NEED FOR YOUNG AMERICANS TO UNDERSTAND THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. THIS ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAS MADE THE UNITED STATES THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. AMERICANS HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF LIVING. AMERICANS WORK FEWER HOURS TO BUY MORE CONSUMER GOODS THAN HAVE ANY OTHER PEOPLE / PAST OR PRESENT. AMERICANS HAVE MORE OF THE GOOD LIFE THAN ANY PEOPLE IN HISTORY. YET, AMERICANS STILL RETAIN THE PRECIOUS FREEDOMS OF PRESS, RELIGION, SPEECH, AS WELL AS MANY OTHERS. AMERICANS STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS THEM, AND, IN MY OPINION, TOO MANY AMERICANS DO JUST THIS.

THE GREATNESS OF A COUNTRY IS TO SOME EXTENT MEASURED BY ITS PRODUCTIVITY. AS THE TV COMMERCIAL ILLUSTRATES, AN AMERICAN PAPERBOY -- AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESSMAN -- MAKES MORE MONEY THAN FIFTY PERCENT OF THE WAGE EARNERS OF THE WORLD. BASICALLY, IN ANY ECONOMY, THOSE WHO WORK WITH THEIR HANDS -- ON THE FARM, ON THE ASSEMBLY LINE, IN THE TEXTILE MILL -- ARE THE PRODUCERS OF THE WORLD. THE REST OF US RISE OR FALL IN OUR STANDARD OF LIVING ACCORDING TO THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THESE WORKERS. HISTORY CERTAINLY SHOWS THAT THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM PRODUCES MORE PER MAN-HOUR THAN DOES ANY OTHER ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

AND YET -- RECENT STUDIES SHOW AN ALMOST TOTAL IGNORANCE AMONG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. MANY TIMES THEY FAVOR MORE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS. OFTEN THEY FAVOR THE GOVERNMENT'S TAKING OVER AND OPERATING INDUSTRIES SUCH AS RAILROADS AND POWER COMPANIES. ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SPENT ANY TIME IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION KNOW THAT GOVERNMENT MONEY PRODUCES GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND RED TAPE. MOST OF YOU WILL AGREE THAT BIG GOVERNMENT IS OFTEN MORE OF A HINDRANCE THAN A HELP. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT GOVERNMENT CANNOT PRODUCE EITHER GOODS OR SERVICES AS PROFICIENTLY OR AS ECONOMICALLY AS PRIVATE BUSINESS. THE PRODUCTION -- OR LACK OF PRODUCTION -- AND THE GROSS INEFFICIENCY IN THE SOVIET UNION AS DOCUMENTED IN ARTICLE AFTER ARTICLE SHOULD BE CONVINCING.

I COULD GIVE YOU ILLUSTRATION AFTER ILLUSTRATION, BUT UNTIL THE STORY IS TOLD, UNTIL THE YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE OPERATION OF FREE ENTERPRISE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARD SOCIALISM. WE MUST TEACH THE TERMS AND CONCEPTS SO ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING OUR AMERICAN SYSTEM.

FREE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPED IN THE UNITED STATES AS A NATURAL COROLLARY OF THE POLITICAL FREEDOMS INHERENT IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. OVER THE YEARS, WHAT BEGAN AS Laissez Faire (LITERALLY, "ALLOW TO ACT") CAPITALISM HAS BEEN RESTRAINED BY MANY LAWS AND REGULATIONS. TODAY, IT IS CORRECT TO SAY THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS A MIXED ECONOMY, BUT ONE THAT IS PREDOMINANTLY CHARACTERIZED BY THE ENTERPRISE OF INDIVIDUALS-OR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS/IN VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION/FOR THEIR COMMON BENEFIT. THIS BUSINESS SYSTEM HAS AT LEAST THREE DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

1. PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY
2. PRIVATE ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING
3. COMPETITION AMONG SUPPLIERS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

THE RIGHT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY ENABLES EACH OF US TO OWN, USE, AND SELL HIS OWN LAND, MATERIAL GOODS, INVESTMENTS, AND LABOR -- THAT IS, BOTH THE MEANS AND THE FRUITS OF PRODUCTION. ECONOMIC DECISIONS IN A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SOCIETY FOR THE MOST PART ARE MADE BY THE PRODUCERS AND THE CONSUMERS -- THE PEOPLE. COMPETITION IS THE PRINCIPAL VEHICLE FOR THE REGULATION OF A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

AS WE LOSE THE FREEDOM OF THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, WE LOSE THE OTHER PRECIOUS INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS, TOO. IN THE SOVIET SPHERE, ONE MUST SECURE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL TO MOVE, TO CHANGE JOBS, AND TO HAVE MANY OF THE PRIVILEGES WHICH WE TAKE FOR GRANTED. WE MUST NOT LET THESE PRECIOUS FREEDOMS SLIP FROM OUR GRASP.

THERE ARE TWO PROGRAMS UNDERWAY IN OUR STATE TO ASSIST IN TRAINING TEACHERS TO TEACH ABOUT PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY WILL BEGIN A PROGRAM. ^{Soon} THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION IS PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIC EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEEP) THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

I URGE YOU TO COOPERATE WITH THESE AGENCIES AND DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO TEACH OUR STATE'S YOUNG PEOPLE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

Merit System NOW, LET ME TALK FOR A MINUTE ABOUT TEACHERS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL. WE ALL AGREE, I BELIEVE, THAT DESPITE NEW METHODS OF TEACHING/SUCH AS THE USE OF ITV, OTHER AUDIO-VISUALS, COMPUTERIZED INSTRUCTION, AND INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION,/THE TEACHER IS STILL THE KEY TO THE OPERATION OF ANY SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. I AM AWARE THAT IT IS RELATIVELY DIFFICULT TO REMOVE AN INCOMPETENT TEACHER. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS PLACED A TEMPORARY BAN ON ISSUING CERTIFICATES TO PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA. THIS FREEZE IS TO BE IN EFFECT UNTIL THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMPLETES THE VALIDATION FOR THE USE OF THE NTE FOR CERTIFICATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA. I URGE YOU TO HIRE THE MOST CAPABLE AND INFORMED TEACHERS WHEN THIS BAN IS LIFTED. I URGE THAT, IN SPITE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT COULD ENSUE, YOU TAKE STEPS TO REMOVE THE MEDIOCRE AND INCOMPETENT TEACHER FROM THE CLASSROOM.

High School Principle
THE WORK OF THE ~~BUILDING ADMINISTRATION~~ IS A KEY TO THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN IN
SOUTH CAROLINA, BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO
ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL
OUR CHILDREN. STRIVE FOR THIS GOAL SO THE STATE MAY BE
PROUD OF ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

*and provide
of the progress of S.C. in future years*