

President Cuts School Aid To Poor Children

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

There is an old adage which states that, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Unfortunately, the Reagan Administration seems to think otherwise.

We know that many of our young people, for various reasons, can't read or do simple arithmetic. They graduate from school or drop out without these skills. The result, often is unemployment, welfare dependency, low wages, dead-end jobs, or in some cases, a life of crime.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act has proven effective in turning many of these young people around.

However, the Administration has embarked upon a course of action designed to cripple this program. The Administration seeks to reduce funding for Title I programs by forty per cent from a 1981 level of \$2.9 billion to \$1.7 billion in 1982. However, no less than \$4 billion is needed and can be effectively used by Title I.

The focus of Title I educational programs has been to improve educational opportunities for low income, handicapped, migratory, neglected and delinquent children in the crucial areas of reading and math. These are children who have special educational needs which are not being met through unsupplemented classroom instruction because local schools cannot afford the extras which these

children need.

Children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds come to school with a number of difficulties in tow. By and large, their parents have limited schooling which inhibits their ability to begin educational instruction in the home. Stuck in low paying, unskilled jobs, these parents find they must focus their attention on meeting the basic needs of the family as opposed to expending scarce resources on educational materials for their children.

In addition, communities with large concentrations of disadvantaged persons feel the pain of economic slumps much more acutely than most other communities. Such conditions heaped upon hundreds of years of oppression, deprivation and neglect, quite naturally, have affected the children of these communities in how they relate to learning in school.

The importance of acquiring a sound education is perhaps no more apparent than today, as the winds of economic change are forcing many persons out of jobs in industries which were once thought to be immune to economic slumps. The condition of economic deprivation ensures that those without the basic educational skills are almost certain to lead a life of poverty with only the barest of necessities for survival.

That is why Title I programs for the educationally disadvantaged are working to effectively reduce the number of unprepared students coming out of our public schools. A 1978 report by the National Institute of Education shows that elementary school pupils in Title I programs gained 7-12 months in reading achievement and 11-12 months in math achievement for each year of participation in such programs. These are modest gains, to be sure, but as other validated studies have indicated, programs

such as Title I can effectively resolve academic deficiencies when direct remedial assistance is consistent and continuous.

Opposition to further budget cuts is mounting. As evidence of this opposition, a significant number of organizations dedicated to the interests of children met in Washington in early December of last year and formed the Coalition to Save Title I. The purpose of the Coalition is to tell the Administration that Title I must receive no less than the \$3.4 billion that the Congress mandated in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. Even with this funding, only 45% of those children eligible to participate in Title I will, in fact, be helped.

Members of the Coalition have contacted my office and I will be happy to refer any informational calls to the appropriate Coalition sources. The goals of the Coalition are vital if we are to prepare all of our children for the work world.

The economic pattern of the future is clear: more persons in search of fewer positions — which means that those persons with the least skills and preparation will be left out. We must take steps which will help many of our fellow citizens to raise themselves from dire economic circumstances through education. The ounce of prevention as provided by Title I will spare us the enormous toll of the cure.

Coping

Is Your Mind Your Friend or Foe?

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Your mind is the most wonderful and effective instrument that you have for eliminating stress. It can however, be your friend or your enemy.

Every thought that you have causes you to feel good, bad or indifferent. Think about what this means to you. When you think about pleasant, relaxing things, your body and mind relax. When you think of problems, fears and unpleasant things, your body and mind experience stress and tension.

Try this experiment after reading this material: 1) Close your eyes. Think about walking through the most beautiful forest that you can think of. Perhaps you are in Hawaii. The weather is beautiful and the temperature is just the way you like it. It is spring time. The trees are beginning to bloom and pretty flowers appear. There is a gentle breeze caressing your face and you feel better than you have ever felt before. All of the stress has left your body. What a wonderful feeling.

Now, close your eyes again. 2) Think about the following scene: You are driving along a highway. It is midnight and raining hard. You are many miles from home in a strange city. You are trembling from chills that are caused by a terrible cold. You really feel bad. Suddenly you hear sirens screaming.

You see lights of police cars flashing as they rush to a terrible automobile crash. Half a mile ahead of you in the distance, you see the tangled wreck of automobiles that have collided on the highway. You are frightened. You are terrified.

The latter scene has probably made you tense. The very thought of such a distasteful scene has caused stress. The first scene relaxed you and made you feel good. These two narrations prove in a convincing manner that your thought control your feelings. If you want to feel good, you must think about relaxing things. If you want to feel bad, you think of tormenting, frightening things.

No one wants to feel bad but the mind sometimes seems to drift to the very things that you do not want to think about such as problems, worries, tormenting people, fears and bad experiences. Sometimes, without even trying, you daydream about these things. And when the daydreaming ends you are nervous, tense, upset and full of stress.

Wouldn't it be nice if you could control your thoughts, think about pleasant things when you want to — and relax? Well, you can do exactly that. If you record on a cassette tape a description of the things that you want to think about when you are under stress, you would be able to achieve relaxation quickly and easily.

After sixteen deadlocked ballots, the United Nations Security Council was unable to elect a new Secretary General. The contest between Mr. Waldheim of Austria and Mr. Salim of Tanzania could not be resolved.

Then, dramatically, Mr. Olara Otunnu of Uganda, in his capacity as Security Council President proposed that the two deadlocked candidates formally withdraw from the race to permit other candidates to emerge.

At the time, when this step was put forward by Mr. Otunnu, it was

thought that Mr. Waldheim, though not officially in the race, would nevertheless be a strong candidate if Mr. Salim could be persuaded to withdraw and make room for another Third World candidate, not likely to be vetoed by the United States.

The Soviets and the Americans liked Waldheim. But the Chinese vetoed Waldheim and the Americans vetoed Salim. Thus the deadlock. At the time, it was also thought that the Chinese would be persuaded to back a third term bid by Waldheim once an ac-

Peruvian Diplomat To Lead The United Nations

By Laura Parks

ceptable yet veto proof Third World candidate emerged who would then be outvoted by Waldheim supporters. This would satisfy the Chinese and the Third World, or so it was thought. It was a weak face-saving gesture to end the deadlock. It did not work.

With Waldheim and

Salim out of the race, yet possible candidates still, Council President Otunnu drew up a list of possible candidates and submitted their names to the Council members for consideration. The members were then asked to indicate which names were totally unacceptable to them.

Mr. Otunnu then per-

sued the unacceptable ones to withdraw from the race. The remaining names were placed before the Council and on the first ballot the Peruvian candidate, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar won.

The new Secretary General designate, Mr. de Cuellar, is known to be a cautious and careful

diplomat with a background that makes him acceptable, but not enthusiastically acceptable, to most nations. The Third World sees in him a sympathetic figure, a man of the emerging world with first hand knowledge of the myriad problems facing the nations attempting to move out of the quagmire of poverty and the long heritage of colonial and neocolonial oppression.

The West sees in him a man whose father was a wealthy Peruvian businessman. They see in him a man educated in Catholic schools and trained as a lawyer, gifted with the social and cultural graces appropriate to a man of his class. He is expected to understand Western concerns and fears.

The Soviets see him as a man who has first hand experience of the Soviet Union, having served there as Peru's first Ambassador to Moscow. In addition, they see in him a man with strong humanistic values, a man who will champion the cause of peace, the most important issue before the world.

The question is then asked, can such a man be a forceful Secretary-General? The answer seems to be that on economic, social and cultural matters he will move toward acceptable compromises. On the matter of peace, he will emerge as an activist and join Pope John Paul II and the World Council of Churches in the rising tide of popular opposition to war and the nuclear arms race.

The Ugandan diplomat, Mr. Olara Otunnu, was warmly applauded by the Security Council members for having devised and carried out the plan that broke the deadlock. Mr. Otunnu has made his mark. He will be a man to watch.

How to get the most from your bank

TAX PREPARATION TIPS
By William A. Brackney

Now that a new year has started, the time is right to begin some practices that will make next year's federal income tax return easier to prepare. A good system of record-keeping may also help you stay within the budget you have planned for yourself or your family.

- Read up on changes resulting from the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. Information is available from lawyers, bank trust departments, or an IRS office. There are changes in capital gains taxes, deductions for charitable giving, federal income taxation levels, and more.
- Since the tax form for itemizing deductions is divided into several parts, it may be helpful to set up folders to keep records on taxes, interest charges, contributions and medical expenses you have paid.
- As you write checks, indicate what the check is for in the space provided. This makes it easy to readily identify possible deductions.
- If you have a home mortgage, automobile or other type of loan, you should receive a statement for each account early in the year showing how much you paid in interest the previous year. You will also receive statements on how much interest you have paid on credit lines such as bank charge cards. You may have to calculate for yourself from your monthly bills the interest you have paid on some retail store charge accounts.
- Make contributions to charities, churches, political candidates or other causes with a check so that you have a record of how much you have given.
- If you are self-employed, it is wise to have separate business and personal checking accounts. This will help you quickly identify possible business deductions.
- Canceled checks and other records such as medical bills or contribution receipts should be saved for at least three years in case you are audited by the IRS.
- Banks will automatically deduct North Carolina intangibles tax from your savings and checking account each November. The amount will be shown on your bank statement and can be used as a deduction if you itemize your tax return. You will be billed for taxes due on your savings certificates or you can arrange to have the intangibles taxes paid from your savings or checking account.
- It is a good idea to keep a record during the year on earnings other than salaries and wages which you receive, such as stock dividends.
- All interest earned on savings accounts, certificates of deposit or other savings instruments must be reported on your income tax return. If you have purchased a new All-Savers Certificate, remember that there is a total \$1,000 tax exemption per person (\$2,000 on a joint return) on interest which the certificate earns.
- If you have a safe deposit box at your bank, the rental fee will qualify as a deduction if the box is used for the storage of taxable, income-producing stocks, bonds or investment-related papers and documents.
- If you have an Individual Retirement Account, remember that you pay no taxes on the interest earned until you begin taking the money out at retirement. The contributions you make to that account are tax-deductible but cannot exceed the allowable limits.
- Many banks have supplies of federal income tax forms in their lobbies. You can pick them up there, from the Internal Revenue office or from the post office if you need extra copies.



William A. Brackney

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