

still do not like the idea of unions. They belong to an association which acts just like a union. The American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, they are pretty much similar right now in terms of they are the leading advocates for children. They are the leading advocates for education. Their interests are closest to the interests of children and parents. It is to their credit that they were singled out for criticism by the Republican candidate for President because he felt the power that they are beginning to exert and the influence. It will all balance out. Shanker made it possible. Albert Shanker made it possible for the teachers union to be recognized on a national level as a force. Most of us feel it is a force for good. It is a force for education and a force for children. The United Federation of Teachers in New York City, founded by Albert Shanker, brought a court case against the Board of Education and the city recently to force them to reduce class sizes and deal with overcrowding in schools. Some of the facts that they have discovered, some of the cases that they brought have been very enlightening as to how bad the situation is. But it is a union operating on behalf of the children for education.

The United Federation of Teachers has nurtured power professionals, people out of the low-income areas who go into the classrooms as assistants without a college education and later on, after a long period of going to college part-time, become teachers. That is a program that has been nurtured by the United Federation of Teachers. There are numerous things that they are doing and have been doing that puts education in the city of New York in a better position. But they, like the rest of us, are now under great pressure from a Governor and a mayor that have indicated that they are not particularly concerned about doing all that has to be done to educate the children of New York City.

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At the national level, the American Federation of Teachers, certainly, that also was captained by Albert Shanker during his last years, has also been a very vital force. They have done all kinds of positive things pushing to get education reform that is meaningful.

I think teachers and teachers' unions will be the first to tell you that there is a danger in having a great deal of attention focused on education if the people who are supplying that attention have a great deal of power and they are only concerned about headlines and photo opportunities. They can make a mess. Things can get worse.

It is our hope that things will not get worse, that we will not have fads substituting for substance, as there will be a real attempt to move forward and grapple with the need to improve education in America all across-the-board: suburbs, rural areas, inner cities; but most of all, education improvement

has to come to the aid of the desperate children of the inner cities of America and do it soon.

It is a desperate situation. We need opportunities to learn. Across-the-board we need a commitment, we need the resources, we need politicians, decisionmakers, powerful people who care about children because only in caring about children will you improve America and guarantee that our society will live up to its full potential. There is an unlimited world out there, and we need educated people to go forward to realize that world of unlimited possibilities.

#### SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, many Americans are not happy with the direction in which this country is going nor with the efforts that Congress has made to solve our problems.

By superficial analysis and as measured by Government statistics, our leaders would have us believe that the state of the union is strong. Yet with casual observation, one detects smoldering discontent among the people. In looking for solutions, Congress engages in political grandstanding that produces few answers for that growing number of Americans not confident about their future. Even many of those who are who are well off worry that their own futures, and certainly their children's futures, are not secure.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that throughout the world, 1.5 billion people live in deep poverty. These are not just people in developing countries, but some even live here in the United States. They do not go unnoticed and contribute to the anxiety of the times. Approximately 3 million children in this country are abused each year, and this does not count abortion.

Violent crime in the United States is a serious problem, with killers getting younger every year. From 1965 to 1992 the number of murders doubled while the percentage of murders solved has fallen.

For many Americans, the standard of living has dropped over the past 25 years. Nominal wages have soared but real income has fallen for low- and middle-income families due to dollar appreciation. Even with two family members working, keeping up has been difficult. Less parental supervision has contributed to the juvenile crime problem.

Generational conflicts are real. The demands of the elderly seem endless. Knowing that they have a greater tax burden to bear and expecting no returns at retirement frustrates the under-40 taxpayer. This resentment is not likely to fade any time soon, and will likely get worse.

Confidence in the future is far from robust. The balanced budget amendment, the line-item veto, term limits; they will not solve our economic and social problems. Cynicism flourishes throughout the land and especially here in the Congress. Frustration over how to solve our problems has led to rude behavior that once was rare in the House. Civility classes only address the symptoms and will not solve the philosophical conflicts nor address the economic limitations that are the source of the impasse the welfare state now encounters.

The radical political correctness movement undermines the first amendment and contributes to the anger expressed by various groups. Intimidation and ridicule of unpopular ideas are hardly a way to bring different social groups together. The same individuals that demand censures of those who do not use politically correct language condemn voluntary prayer as a violation of the first amendment. A consistent position on free speech will go a long way toward softening the growing resentment that strains our relationships with each other.

Our welfare state is now broke. We cannot meet our future obligations, now estimated to be over \$17 trillion. We must one day admit this fact. There are just not enough young victims left to tax to continue the process. We can and are limping along by continuing to rob Peter to pay Paul. This can last for a while longer but eventually we will have to admit that borrowing, taxing and inflating will not suffice.

These techniques pursued over the past 60 years cannot replace working, producing, saving, investing as the real source of wealth and prosperity. Government is incapable of producing wealth. Productivity growth, according to the Wall Street Journal, is now .3 percent per year. This is similar to pre-industrial revolution days. If this continues, it will take 10 generations for a person to double one's income.

Inflation has eaten away at the seemingly huge welfare payments that we no longer can afford. The average welfare check in 1970 was worth twice that of 1996.

More of the same, though, cannot address the problem of productivity and savings. Only good economic policy and sound political theory can do that.

We must realize we are not yet facing what other western developed nations are. Japan is in the doldrums, and even interest rates of less than 1 percent have not revitalized their economy. Where will they be when the United States quits buying Japanese products in our next recession? France and Germany are further ahead than we are in