

and local governments all have a role to play in funding education. All must do so if we are to respond to the imperative of educational opportunity and excellence in our own enlightened self interest.

Jonathan Kozol, in his important work "Savage Inequalities," spoke to the effects of tying educational opportunity to property wealth. Disparities are created that fly in the face of America's promise of equality of opportunity. Moreover, the local property tax is a poor basis for educational funding; It is inelastic; it is not progressive; it has no relation to the function being supported; and it ties the fate of Johnny's schools to Grandma's fixed income. State governments have not corrected this funding anomaly. A recent report by the U.S. General Accounting Office [GAO] quantifies the inequities of the current mix of State and local tax support of schools and found not only the disparity based on wealth that Kozol exposed, but an even further perversity: Those communities which had the least in terms of property wealth tried the hardest to support their schools by devoting a greater portion of their income to education.

When one considers, in addition, that there is—again, according to the GAO—at least \$112 billion in deferred maintenance on the school buildings alone, the magnitude of our education funding challenge becomes clear. That \$112 billion for infrastructure will simply address our crumbling school problem; it does not put the new technologies into the classroom or train teachers to use them or pay for the increased phone bills for computer use.

What should be clear is that the answer is not either/or, but all. There are appropriate roles for all of our governments, at the national, State, and local levels. We should emphasize cooperation and collaboration between them,

with each taking the responsibility most appropriate to resources and capacity. I have suggested the National Government take up the rebuilding of our crumbling schools, not only because the price tag is so huge, and the problem widespread and pervasive in city, suburban, and rural communities across the Nation, but because it is something the National Government can do without interfering with local decision making, such as which part of the school to fix first.

In the meantime, we should all welcome the debate occurring at the State houses and city councils and boards of education all over America. We should be proud that our President made education the cornerstone of his State of the Union Address. We should be optimistic that our generation has the capacity to address and resolve the challenges of our time, and that we can translate all of the tension and concern about this issue into reality-based solutions.

We must start, however, as the Earth Day slogan advises, by "Thinking Globally and Acting Locally." The answers will be plain and the balance apparent when we consider the implications of this challenge for our Nation's future. The chairman of the OECD, Jean-Claude Paye, once said: "Leaders worried about their economies need to focus on society's fraying fabric."

Our attention to education funding reform is a first step in grasping the challenge of our time, and as we restore our Nation's schools, the permanence of the American dream will become more secure.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in adjournment.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:16 p.m., adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 1997.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 8, 1997:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAMES WILLIAM BLAGG, OF TEXAS, TO BE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF 4 YEARS VICE RONALD F. EDERER, RESIGNED.
CALVIN D. BUCHANAN, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF 4 YEARS VICE ROBERT Q. WHITWELL, RESIGNED.

JAMES ALLAN HURD, JR., OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR THE TERM OF 4 YEARS VICE JAMES W. DIEHM, RESIGNED.

JOHN D. TRASVINA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR IMMIGRATION-RELATED UNFAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS, VICE WILLIAM HO-GONZALEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

RUTH Y. TAMURA, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2001. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION IN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

KENNETH P. MOOREFIELD, OF MARYLAND

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

JONATHAN M. BENSKY, OF WASHINGTON
JOHN PETERS, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

THOMAS LEE BOAM, OF UTAH
STEPHEN K. CRAVEN, OF FLORIDA
LAWRENCE I. EISENBERG, OF FLORIDA
EDGAR D. FULTON, OF VIRGINIA
SAMUEL H. KIDDER, OF WASHINGTON
BOBETTE K. ORR, OF ARIZONA
JAMES WILSON, OF PENNSYLVANIA