

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE LES AUCOIN
IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 18, 1982

MR. SPEAKER, I RISE IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6863, THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR 1982, WHICH INCLUDES CRITICAL ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FEDERALLY SUPPORTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS. AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, THE BILL SHIFTS FUNDS FROM UNNECESSARY MILITARY SPENDING PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN KEY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

DAVID STOCKMAN, THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DIRECTOR, IS THREATENING TO RECOMMEND A VETO OF THIS BILL ON GROUNDS THAT IT EXCEEDS THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THE BILL IS \$1.8 BILLION LESS THAN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST. WHAT MR. STOCKMAN REALLY OBJECTS TO IS THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE EXERCISING ITS RESPONSIBILITY, AS IT IS REQUIRED TO DO, IN DETERMINING HOW FUNDS SHALL BE APPORTIONED AMONG DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS. IN THIS CASE, THE COMMITTEE CUT \$2.1 BILLION FROM DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND FOREIGN AID, AND INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR OTHER FUNCTIONS, NOTABLY EDUCATION.

AS A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, I WHOLLY ENDORSE THESE COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND URGE ADOPTION OF THE BILL. WHILE STAYING UNDER THE BUDGET REQUEST, THE BILL REPRESENTS A WISER USE OF THE BUDGET DOLLARS AVAILABLE BY INVESTING A LARGER SHARE IN OUR NATION'S GREATEST RESOURCE -- OUR YOUTH, OUR NATION'S FUTURE. IN VIRTUALLY EVERY FIELD, FROM MEDICAL RESEARCH TO MANUFACTURING, FROM COMMUNICATIONS TO CHEMISTRY, WE ARE BEING CHALLENGED AS NEVER BEFORE. EVERY ONE OF US HAS A STAKE IN SEEING TO IT THAT THIS GENERATION OF CHILDREN GROWING UP TODAY IS THE BEST EDUCATED GENERATION IN THE NATION'S HISTORY.

TO CUT BACK ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AS THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SOUGHT TO DO AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, MAKES AS MUCH SENSE AS A FARMER CUTTING BACK ON HIS SEED CORN. THE BILL BEFORE US TODAY ASSURES A PRUDENT SUPPLY OF SEED FOR EDUCATION. IT RECOGNIZES THAT OUR FUTURE SECURITY AS A NATION DEPENDS NOT ONLY UPON A STRENGTHENED DEFENSE CAPABILITY, BUT ALSO UPON STRENGTHENED HUMAN CAPABILITIES.

SPECIFICALLY, IT PROVIDES:

o \$148 MILLION FOR GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN UNDER TITLE I OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT. TO RESOLVE A CONTROVERSY ARISING FROM THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S DECISION TO APPORTION SUPPLEMENTAL TITLE I FUNDS ON THE BASIS OF 1970 CENSUS DATA RATHER THAN 1980 DATA, THE COMMITTEE HAS INCLUDED AN AMOUNT NECESSARY TO GIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS THEIR ALLOCATION UNDER THE 1970 CENSUS OR 1980 CENSUS, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER.

o \$26.5 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, WHICH WERE REDUCED BETWEEN 20 AND 50 PERCENT BELOW THE 1981 FISCAL YEAR LEVEL IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION, TO RESTORE THOSE PROGRAMS TO THEIR PREVIOUS YEAR'S LEVEL.

o \$2.5 MILLION FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. NO SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS WERE REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

o \$217 MILLION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WITH DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED UNDER THE PELL GRANT PROGRAM, AND \$77 MILLION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY GRANTS.

o \$10 MILLION FOR AID TO DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONS UNDER TITLE III OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT.

MR. SPEAKER, BECAUSE OF THE DELAY IN PASSING A BUDGET RESOLUTION, THIS BILL COMES TO THE FLOOR FOR FINAL PASSAGE TWO MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE. FURTHER DELAY WILL ONLY EXACERBATE THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH WHICH LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE WRESTLING IN BUDGETING THEIR RESOURCES.

MR. STOCKMAN CAN SAY HE DOESN'T LIKE IT, HE CAN SAY IT'S NOT WHAT HE WANTS, BUT HE CANNOT TRUTHFULLY SAY THIS BILL IS A BUDGET-BUSTER, BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRABLY IS NOT.