

Talking Points for Testimony before the Platform Amendments  
Committee of the Democratic State Committee, Fall River,  
Saturday, February 26, 1983

Subject: Article One of the Platform ("Restoring Vigorous  
Economic Growth") and some remarks on the role of  
human resources in economic growth

Point One: Importance of education in boosting economic growth

--Recent study by the New York Stock Exchange concluded: "The main finding of our study is simply this: There is enormous potential to boost productivity in the workplace by better utilizing our people."

--the study also found that "one of the things the Japanese do right is in schooling their people; the extraordinary effectiveness of their schools is one relatively neglected reason for their high productivity. By comparison, our own schools are failing to provide our young people with the preparation they need to reach their full productive potential."

--a report of the National Science Foundation (Oct. 1982) adds that the achievements of U.S. secondary school students in mathematics and science has definitely declined over the past several decades; practically all states report shortages in mathematics and science teachers in secondary schools; typical starting salary is \$13,000 a year; vacancy rate in computer and electronic assistant professorships runs above 25 percent

POINT Two: Particular Importance of Education in High Tech Era

--challenge to our international technological competitiveness; our educational system must respond by providing the human resources needed for us to compete

- three aspects of our educational system need attention:
- a. large enough pool of students well prepared and motivated to qualify for advanced technological careers plus greater technical literacy for all students
  - b. upgrade colleges by modernizing facilities and curricula to reflect technological advance
  - c. strengthen post-college ducation by keeping working scientists and engineers up to date and by retraining those with outmoded skills

--according to Pat Choate, analyst for TRW Inc., the continuing shift of the American economy from a manufacturing to a nonmanufacturing base; the growing importance of trade and investment to our economy; ~~and~~ the decline of American productivity; and the quickening pace of technological change--all make education more essential

--Choate also notes that in the next 20 years substantially fewer people will enter the workforce than in the 1960's and 1970's and thus the nation must use its workers more effectively; in the 1980's and 1990's there is substantial potential for improving labor ~~xxx~~ quality, but only if our workers acquire the necessary skills

### Point Three: Reagan Administration Cutbacks

--in spite of purported interest in new educational initiatives (c.f. State of Union ~~xxxxxxx~~ Address), the Reagan Administration FY84 budget request calls for overall reductions of \$1.5 billion in educational and training spending; the reductions would occur across the board at every educational level ~~by~~ by these amounts:

higher education...\$503 million  
Elementary, secondary and vocational...\$64 million  
Other educationa...\$91 million  
Veterans...\$304 million  
Training and employment...\$147 million  
Health...\$111 million  
Other training...\$327 million

### Point Four: Need for Private Role in Improving Education and Training

--private companies have many resources they can contribute to educational system: expertise in technical fields, experience in engineering work, funds, employees who can teach part-time, equipment for research and instruction, etc.

--most job training is still on-the-job training; what is needed is a mechanism to encourage businesses to invest in their human ~~ex~~ capital to the ~~xx~~ same extent that they do in ~~physxxx~~ physical capital; for example, government could ~~xx~~ establish a special account, like an IRA, to allow businesses to recover the cost of their investment in education and training, ~~xxxxxxx~~ as they now recover the cost of plant and equipment by depreciation; also, the Morrill ACT

### Point Five: Beyond High Tech

--problem is not just high tech; in our basic industries, ~~xxxxxx~~ innovation and new technology are just as important

--part of our competitive problem is staying competitive in managerial engineering; this ~~depend~~ depends on having managers, engineers and technicians who capable of dealing with technological change and of best organizing their companies to take advantage of it

### Point Six: Helping the Disadvantaged

--we cannot ignore ~~x~~ the disadvantaged; basic skill deficiencies



functional illiteracy is epidemic.

--in our rush to high tech, math and science, we must not overlook basic education

Point Seven: Beyond Education

--there are other ways to develop human resources besides through education; for example, there is enormous potential to boost the productivity of our workforce ~~through~~ by treating workers more humanely (quality circles), involving workers in decisions, sharing financial gains, promoting good health, etc.