

TO THE CITIZENS OF MICHIGAN:

During the summer of 1963, I was among the educational leaders invited by President Kennedy to a meeting in Washington to discuss racial problems as related to education. Following my return to Michigan and in accord with President Kennedy's request, I called together a group of about sixty school administrators to discuss the nature and complexity of this important question in Michigan. It was agreed it would be advisable for me to appoint an advisory committee made up of educators, citizens, and representatives of interested civic groups in the state to consider further this important matter.

The first meeting of this committee led to a recommendation that a small steering committee be formed to develop a set of guidelines for use by local school boards and administrators in providing equal educational opportunities for all youth regardless of race or creed. This steering committee, made up of people representing widely different interests and holding divergent points of view, met frequently over a period of time and worked very conscientiously, spending a considerable amount of time on their task. After much discussion of all concerns and viewpoints, the members reached a position agreeable and acceptable to all. In view of the strong feelings and the emotional nature of the problem, this was an outstanding accomplishment and has resulted in what I feel is not only an excellent philosophic statement but one which also deals with specific recommendations for consideration by local schools. The statement was recommended for my adoption and has now been distributed to all school districts, universities and colleges, and several other groups in the state.

I feel that this document is a fine testimonial to the fact that people holding what may initially appear to be differing and irreconcilable points of view can meet and intelligently work out their differences. While several other states have prepared statements of guidelines, I believe that this work by Michigan educators is unique and goes beyond many previous efforts in that it takes a positive