

FOREWORD

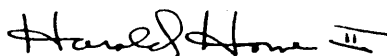
This report on the National Conference on Education of the Disadvantaged testifies to the spirit of honest inquiry which motivated the conference participants. It is, in fact, a striking tribute to the candor and integrity of American educators, engaged in a search for lasting solutions to the educational problems of our time.

If the report appears to focus on shortcomings in our schools, this is because our educators recognize that self-examination, rather than self-congratulation, provides the key to progress. I think it is clear, however, that throughout the Nation, American teachers are gaining new insights into the educational process and are seeking, and finding, ways to make all our children more successful in the schools.

The spirit of change and progress which marks our schools today has been greatly stimulated by Federal programs established under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. It is my hope and belief that this conference, and the printed summary of its proceedings, will be a provocative and refreshing stimulus to further progress.

I extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the conference participants for their enthusiasm, their perceptiveness, and their productive deliberations.

It would be impossible for me in this short space to name all the others who gave so generously of their time, talent, and energies to this large undertaking. I can only say that I am most grateful to all persons, both within and outside the U.S. Office of Education, who contributed to the success of the conference.



HAROLD HOWE II.
U.S. Commissioner of Education

JULY 28, 1966.