

The strength and vigor of our economy and indeed the future of our society of free people demand that our youth, who represent the best of all our hopes, be given a chance to do their best.

These are the first two sentences in 400(a).

We also are strongly committed to the specific objective stated in the last half of the third sentence of the proposed statement: That is, that "no student of ability be denied an opportunity to develop his talents because of financial inability to meet basic higher education costs."

The joint statement of the two associations in this document I mentioned earlier states that, "It is clear . . . that the American ideal of equality of opportunity for all depends on making post high school educational opportunity a reality for the culturally and economically disadvantaged. . . ."

The third sentence of the proposed statement of purpose, however, read in full, states that: "It is the purpose of this title to provide substantial assistance to students in order that no student of ability will be denied the opportunity to develop his talents because of financial inability to meet basic higher education costs."

This statement, taken in the context of the entirety of the proposed section 400(a) would appear to commit the Congress and the Nation to a policy of assuring access to education for all through financial assistance to students.

I find it difficult to believe, Madam Chairman, that the drafters of this proposed policy statement understood its implications.

As I stated at the outset, a policy of eliminating financial barriers to higher education solely through providing aid to individual students who cannot pay the cost has many of the aspects of treatment of the symptoms rather than the basic problem, which is the spiraling cost of education to the student and his family.

Colleges and universities have three sources of operational support: From public funds, from private gifts and grants, and from student fees.

If the first two sources are adequate, student fees can be kept at a minimum, and the problem of aid to students who need help to meet college costs is a matter of bridging the gap between resources and living costs.

If the college must raise its fees either to accommodate increased numbers of students or simply to meet the rising costs of higher education—or both—both the amount of aid needed per student, and the number of students needing aid, go up.

Today, most students can still go to college on the basis of the amount of help their families can provide or the amount they themselves can earn, or a combination of the two.

If college charges continue to spiral upward, this will be true of fewer students. Increasingly, access to higher education will depend on who is selected to get how much student aid.

I would also ask you to give careful attention to the probable effects of a Federal policy of financing all students who need help to go to college on other sources of support for higher education.

Private support and State and municipal support have in the past provided the overwhelming preponderance of support for the operating costs of our colleges and universities.