

in history to deny responsibility for even a minor fraction of the cost of the higher education of its future leaders seems preposterous.

The major advance needed at this point in our history calls for Federal aid in such forms and in such variety as to strengthen all colleges and universities from the weakest to the most prestigious.

The path to great achievement in cultural, social, and economic advance is well established. It is the education of all Americans to their highest potential and the fullest use of the special resources of our higher institutions in research and public service.

It involves continuation and expansion of most programs already under way, particularly in the areas of research, extension and public service, facilities aid, and special aid for both economically deprived individuals and institutions.

But more than that, it requires broad Federal support on an institutional basis: support which will encourage expansion while reducing pressures on student charges; support which will maintain quality in the face of rising costs; support which will recognize that qualitative differences among institutions must be cured by "levelling up" rather than levelling down and that quality lies in the excellence of performance of their different functions by a wide variety of institutions, each according to its own purposes.

There are legitimate grounds for differences of opinion and judgment as to the merits of various plans and formulae for broad institutional support. The century-old experience of the land-grant institutions and the more recent use of the principle of general operating support in certain of the health fields have, however, demonstrated both that acceptable formulae can be found and that broad Federal institutional support, always supplementary and complementary to other established sources, is entirely compatible with the academic integrity and institutional autonomy of our colleges and universities.

The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities believe that the field of science offers the best opportunity at present for the initiation of a new program of institutional support, which can, if experience warrants, be broadened to include other fields. By