



WASHINGTON REPORT

Prepared by *Education-Training Market Report*

BACK TO SCHOOL: America's schools opened on political note as three liberal House Democrats accused President Nixon of indifference to school desegregation. Accusation came in letter from Reps. Donald M. Fraser, Minnesota; John Brademas, Indiana; James C. Corman, California, to President charging Nixon with silence on anti-integration amendment to federal education appropriations "that may have been the death warrant" to federal school desegregation.

"Your continued silence can only be construed as a deliberate effort to emasculate the school desegregation program," House liberals wrote.

School opened in fall of 1969 with all-time high registration, serious fund shortages at local level, taxpayer revolt, confusion on integration guidelines, and rash of teacher strikes. Office of Education, nevertheless, reported 1969-70 will see record outlays for public and private education at all levels.

"The nation is expected to devote \$64.7 billion of its resources during 1969-70 to public and private education at all levels, compared with \$61.4 billion in 1968-69," OE reported.

Total enrollment in public and private education institutions of all kinds will rise to 58.6 million, up 1.2 percent over 57.9 million of last year. Figures reveal per-student outlays are rising somewhat more sharply than rise in costs due to inflation. OE has also noted that 61.4 million Americans--more than 30 percent of population--will be in school as students and teachers alone.

At college level, enrollment of degree-seekers is expected to rise from 6.9 to 7.1 million. Secondary school enrollment is expected to jump from 14.2 to 14.8 million. Elementary enrollment is expected to remain relatively unchanged with an increase of 100,000 to 36.9 million pupils. There will be some 2.5 million elementary and secondary teachers, up 300,000 over last year. College teaching personnel is expected to rise 10,000 to 530,000.

Public and private elementary and secondary school spending will be up nearly two billion to \$42 billion. Higher education outlays will increase from \$21.3 to \$22.7 billion.

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SLOW ACTION ON MANPOWER: Congress is expected to move slowly on both manpower and welfare programs proposed by President Nixon.

Welfare program is of interest to education-training community because of emphasis on training and day care. Program would require welfare recipients to accept training and jobs. Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D., Conn.), in Senate floor address, termed lack of job guarantees major weakness of program.

Although President had been expected to propose public sector counterpart of JOBS program of National Alliance of Businessmen, no such program emerged in Administration message because of costs. Sen. Ribicoff is expected to seek amendment to any Administration bill to provide half-million public service jobs.

Manpower message offered no expansion of training programs, but called for permanent assignment of OEO manpower programs to Labor Department. Programs include Neighborhood Youth Corps, Job Corps, Concentrated Employment Programs, JOBS, New Careers, WINS and similar training. Most of programs involved now are delegated to Labor Department by OEO from funds appropriated to Office of Economic Opportunity.

Under proposed manpower program, however, all funding would be bundled into block grants under state plans with portions earmarked to cities. Major programs such as MDTA institutional program now operate under state plans, but funds are appropriated separately for each kind of training. Under Nixon proposal, block grant funds could be used by states and localities to place emphasis where they desire--on youth training, concentrated employment or institutional.

Nixon's Manpower Training Act of 1969 would begin with state plans. After state plan is approved, state would demonstrate capability by administering 25 percent of federal allotment. After it creates acceptable comprehensive program, state would receive two-thirds and when comprehensive program is proved, it would administer 100 percent.

Program calls for ultimate syphoning of 80 percent of manpower funds through states, and retention of 20 percent in Labor Department for special and national programs, research and such other activity as evaluation. Message does not make it clear whether or not present division of powers over MDTA by HEW and Labor will continue in some form. At present, Bureau of Adult and Vocational Education must approve curriculum for institutional training. Spokesmen at both Labor and Office of Education appear to be in dark about resolution of problem.

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