

to any of us to note that *the educational system in the Soviet Union has as its primary aim the training of scientists, engineers and technicians, and that they are producing two or three times as many of these professionals as are we. I was impressed by this excerpt from the report, which attempted to explain the differences between the aim of American and Russian education.*

“In the United States,” it said, “although the aims and philosophy of education have often been the subject of controversy, the basic ideal which has guided and molded the development of the educational system has been the principle that education is good only if it is primarily for the sake of the individual; that its mission is to teach the individual to think and to act, how to develop and perform a skill of his own choosing for his own benefit, within the bounds and restraints set by the democratic system and its law”

And then it went on to describe the Soviet aims as follows: “The basic aims of Soviet education,” it said, “are altogether different. The educational system is designed to serve, not the individual, but the collectivist state which, by identifying itself with the common good, subordinates the individual—his rights, privileges, choice and his entire physical and mental training—to its own needs. It is only within the confines of choice determined by the state that the individual may develop his personal abilities.” Now, I cannot conceive of an American subscribing to this Soviet view of education—that education is to be employed as a tool of the state. We believe that our state will thrive and make advances on the strength of the accomplishments of the individual citizens who comprise it

I believe you will agree with me that if we are to survive in this contest with the Soviet Union and the *other communistic states*, we must move, and move fast, in education. For this reason, those of you who are engaged in the area of public education face the greatest challenge in the history of our country. I am both hopeful and confident that we will be able to meet this challenge

Learning, we know, is not something that can be purchased. If it were, who is it that would not immediately buy universal education, at whatever cost?

Neither is it something that can be forced upon the individual by schools, curricula and *all the instruments* of formal education. You who teach, or are learning to teach, understand this, I am sure, much better than I. A person can be led or directed to education, just as is being done in our schools, but ultimately the individual must educate himself.