

1 afforded him. Studies have shown conclusively that the
2 students who are unable to compete because of inferior
3 education ultimately become an unskilled, unemployed citi-
4 zen at best and at worst a chronic welfare recipient or
5 criminal. Having served on the Ways and Means Committee
6 of the Legislature, I can tell you that the choice of
7 payment for welfare and crime is not optional, that is
8 there whether we want it or not. The question raised by
9 the amount of education to be provided is in effect an op-
10 tional one. But the results of the failure to so provide
11 are dramatic and have been demonstrated throughout this
12 State and throughout the Nation. Failure to provide equal
13 educational opportunity is deleterious not only to those
14 children so denied but on the society in which they are
15 unable to fully participate. The judgment for providing
16 this equal education opportunity must be set against the
17 test of reasonable differences which the Legislature must
18 consider.

19 Perhaps to make this point clear, we should say
20 we are not setting any absolute standard of equality, but
21 rather one in which the finding is in the seeking.