

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce those risks.
"Without vision, the people perish."

How the Federal Government Squanders Billions on Education

Ever since 1965, when Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the federal government has poured billions of dollars into public education. The Nation at Risk report, issued in 1983, indicates that all that money not only did not improve public education but probably contributed to its decline. Since 1965 many other federal programs have been added to the ESEA. And whenever a new billion-dollar program is added, a new bureaucracy is needed to administer it, thereby greatly increasing the cost of government.

In 1979, the U.S. Department of Education was created to handle all of this federal giving. But one thing the DOE hasn't done is provide the American people with an easy-to-read-and-understand accounting of where all of this money is going, how it is being spent, and whether or not it is doing any good.

Fortunately we have received from Washington copies of the DOE's Annual Evaluation Reports for the fiscal years 1982, 1983 and 1986. These 600-page documents list all of the federal education programs, the yearly appropriations, the program goals, etc. Some of these multi-million-dollar programs are described in two or three pages, providing scanty information about their effectiveness.

We've listed over a hundred of these programs in this report to give you an idea of what your tax money is being spent on. The sums involved are sometimes mind-boggling. We've also done something that no one else, not even the federal government, has done: added up the appropriations of each program over the years so that one can see how much money has been poured into a specific program from its inception to the present. As you will notice, few programs are ever terminated. In fact, it is estimated that the Department of Education budget in 1988 will be its highest yet, in the 20- to 21-billion-dollar range.

Even though a good many, if not all, of these federal programs are neither essential nor wise, any suggestions of cutting or ending them sends educators into paroxysms. In fact, the educators complain that they aren't getting enough. But if they can't deliver excellence with the billions they now have, it is a certainty that they won't be able to deliver it with more. When you consider what private schools do with a pittance, you can only bemoan the billions that are wasted on public education.

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