

Statement Dictated by Daniel J. Evans
for
House Education Committee hearing on 3/8/83

I serve as a member of the National Science Foundation Commission on pre-college math, science and technology education. This Commission is engaged in a two-year study of the current crisis facing the nation in this field. Testimony to date has identified a serious lack of trained new teachers in mathematics and science. This is a nationwide phenomenon, made particularly intense by the salary disparities in these fields between teaching and alternative positions in private industry. Studies have also suggested that cross training of teachers from other disciplines is inadequate to meet current scientific requirements. The Commission has also identified a growing need for significant in-service education to bring new scientific knowledge and methods to the attention of our current teacher corps.

As we re-populate our common schools with an expanding generation of children during the next decade, we simply must provide the best in science and mathematics education to prepare this new generation for the technological era ahead. We must start in the earliest grades with much more significant mathematics and science education designed to meet tomorrow's needs and not yesterday's.

I am extremely pleased to see the initiative represented in this package of bills presented to the Legislature. I encourage the careful consideration of these and other proposals to help secure the economic well being of our state and exemplary education of our young. I will be pleased to provide any information collected through the National Science Foundation Commission which might be of assistance to the Legislature in its deliberations.

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