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To: Iris Rotberg

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From: Doc Howe

H.H.II

Thanks for your letter and the copy of your April 19 piece on what the politicians should do to advance education. I recall reading it when it came out and thinking how much common sense it displayed. So I was glad to get the chance to read it again. I hope that you will keep battering at the nabobs. Its good for them.

Currently I am pleased that new initiatives for the preparation of teachers are appearing across the country. Sandy Feldman of the AFT has been flying that flag, and a week ago Susan Johnson from Harvard had a fine essay in EDWEEK. I wrote them both a letter, a copy of which I enclose with this note.

It's about time the leaders of education in the USA woke up to the crisis of teacher supply that has been sitting at their doorstep for ten years or more. I think that Susan's statement provides a cogent analysis of the nature of the problem and some of the strategies for dealing with it.

Do you remember that when the President and the Governors first gathered in Charlottesville to announce the National Goals, they never even mentioned teachers? Instead they proposed beating the Japanese with "world standards." We have wasted twelve valuable years pursuing that will-o-the-wisp mainly because a group of supposed thoughtful American's dumped A NATION AT RISK in the lap of political and corporate leaders. If there ever was an educational tragedy, that's it.

Anyway, it's good to hear from you! Remember the old saying – NON ILLIGITIMI CARBORUNDUM . Translation – DON'T LET THE BASTARDS WEAR YOU DOWN.