

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

March 14, 1979

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We would like to take this opportunity to comment on your January 17, 1979 Memorandum to Heads of Executive Agencies and Departments, in which you announce the intention of your Administration to upgrade its commitment to Black institutions of higher education. While we have no objection per se, to this new directive, we are extremely concerned that an exclusive emphasis on Black colleges and universities essentially ignores the higher education needs of Hispanics and other non-Black minority groups.

During the last funding cycle strong evidence of discrimination by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare against Hispanic institutions in the Title III Developing Institutions Program was uncovered. As you know, the Congress is presently reviewing the recently completed GAO report on Title III with a view toward determining the exact extent and scope of discrimination within the program.

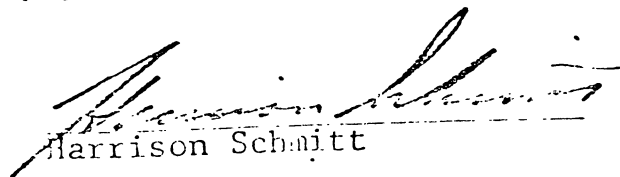
The recent Title III difficulties, coupled with your latest policy directive with respect to Black institutions, will intensify the gap between federal education support for Black minority students and support for Hispanic and other non-Black minority groups. These actions, by encouraging this disparate treatment, will serve to condone HEW's past insensitivity to the educational needs of Hispanics and other minorities, and will absolve that agency of any responsibility to correct these inequities and upgrade its commitment to meeting the educational needs of non-Black minority groups.

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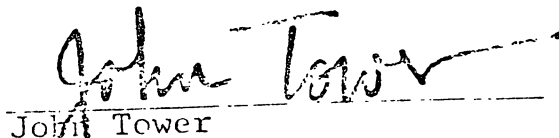
We thank you for your attention to this matter, and urge you to carefully consider the full implications of your newly announced policy on the non-Black institutions of higher education. Equity of effort in upgrading the commitment of the Federal Government to all minority institutions is of utmost importance.

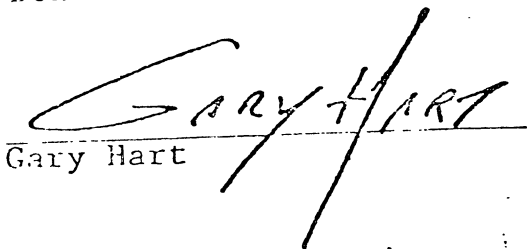
Very truly yours,


Pete V. Domenici

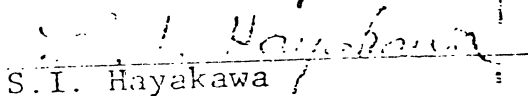

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