Harry S. Truman: Life-Long Learner 1884-1972
Dr. Jon E. Taylor
Juventus spes mundi
Truman’s Teachers

MATILDA BROWN

ARDELIA HARDIN PALMER
Farmer 1906-1917
World War I veteran 1917
County Judge 1922-1924 and 1926 to 1933
Results of County Planning 1932

The traveler over Independence area this beautiful highway which once was a foul,broken road. This rolling countryside over which the Indians once trod is now a peaceful residential section between two of Jackson County’s largest cities.

Beneath an artistically-arched stone bridge the traveler emerges along Van Hise Road, east from Kansas City toward Independence — the first leg of a trip which encompasses many historic landmarks, remnants of the early days of the pioneers.
1934 Senate Campaign
Re-elected 1940
Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program 1941-1944
Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 “GI Bill” June 22, 1944
April 12, 1945
Westminster College March 5, 1946
CHAPTER 1

Education for a Better Nation and a Better World

Education is an institution of every civilized society, but the purposes of education are not the same in all societies. An educational system finds its guiding principles and ultimate goals in the aims and philosophy of the social order in which it functions. The two predominant types of society in the world today are the democratic and the authoritarian, and the social role of education is very different in the two systems.

American society is a democracy; that is, its folkways and institutions, its arts and sciences and religions are based on the principle of equal freedom and equal rights for all its members, regardless of race, faith, sex, occupation, or economic status. The law of the land, providing equal justice for the poor as well as the rich, for the weak as well as the strong, is one instrument by which a democratic society establishes, maintains, and protects this equality among different persons and groups. The other instrument is education, which, as all the leaders in the making of democracy have pointed out again and again, is necessary to give effect to the equality prescribed by law.

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

It is a commonplace of the democratic faith that education is indispensable to the maintenance and growth of freedom of thought, faith, enterprise, and association. Thus the social role of education in a democratic society is at once to insure equal liberty and equal opportunity to differing individuals and groups, and to enable the citizens to understand, appraise, and redirect forces, men, and events as these tend to strengthen or to weaken their liberties.

In performing this role, education will necessarily vary its means and methods to fit the diversity of its constituency, but it will achieve its ends more successfully if its programs and policies grow out of
“I regard the proper education of our youth as a matter of paramount importance to the welfare and security of the United States. Public provision for education has been primarily the concern of the several States, and must remain so. The maintenance of freedom of thought and expression depends in large measure upon keeping our systems of education free from central control. But it is necessary and proper that the Federal Government should furnish financial assistance....”
Rollins College Winter Park, FL
March 8, 1949
Sources/Resources

- The American Presidency Project
- Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
- History of Education Quarterly August 2007 Volume 47 number 3.
- Christopher P. Loss Between Citizens and the State: The Politics of American Higher Education in the 20th Century
Jon E. Taylor