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Wealth for the Children and for the Future

There is a constant battle between the needs and wants for many people in America. Because of this struggle, the American wealth is being misplaced and altered to fit certain wants, instead of economically sound needs that a society requires to function successfully. One of those needs is education that effectively increases the stability of a country based on knowledge. Therefore, the American wealth in the United States should be distributed for educational institutions across the nation for schools and libraries. With this need satisfied, the American society will flourish and will continue for years to come by strengthening the foundation of education. The power of knowledge will permeate the country's land and effectively encourage more job opportunities and advancement in technology.

The focus on education, when distributing wealth, is very important because it starts here where the progression towards success may be seen. The children of America are the upcoming population for the future, therefore educating those children appropriately can better the future of the country and ultimately the country is lead upon their own knowledge and understanding of how to live successfully. Even President Obama declared in one his education speeches "...it is education that allows our children to hope for something else." In this statement, President Obama understands that education is the initial element that allows children to possess an understanding for hope. With hope, children can strive to change and improve the world around them, because they would have had the best possible education to do so.

Milton Snavely Hershey and his philanthropic effort in establishing a school for orphan boys back in 1909 exemplify a fair example of this idea. Milton Hershey entrusted all of his money toward the

Milton Hershey School (MHS), because he understood the value of education. In 1934, Milton Hershey gave a Senior Hall dedication speech and asserted that “Men of wealth should give their money...” and by this saying Milton Hershey himself had lived up to his statement as it can be seen by how MHS was founded and by how successful it is today. Knowing that education is a leading beneficiary for the distribution of wealth, not only did Milton Hershey himself know of this concept, but also Andrew Carnegie, when he wrote his infamous piece, *The Gospel of Wealth*.

The Gospel of Wealth, in three key concepts, tells men of wealth where they should distribute their money and one of those three concepts was for public services and education can be listed underneath this concept because educating the nation’s population is guaranteed as a public service from the United States government. Andrew Carnegie illustrates the concept of giving towards education by the use of libraries. He exclaims, “...Mr. Tilden’s bequest of five millions of dollars for a free library in the city of New York...Mr. Tilden had devoted the last years of his own life to the proper administration of this immense sum...where the treasures of the world contained in books will be open forever...” Mr. Carnegie’s comfort with his statement proclaims that one of New York’s public libraries was initially supported based upon a large sum of money that encouraged learning and education throughout the city, and the best part would be that it was free. Carnegie’s main point on this example was to show that the money neither was wasted nor used up immediately in small sums but instead it was distributed as a large sum to an educational resource that would continue long after Mr. Tilden’s death. Consequently, both Milton Hershey and Andrew Carnegie knew the impact of distributing wealth towards education and can attest to the fact that this idea does prove to be useful and not as a wasteful act of spending.

In conclusion, the distribution of wealth should focus on the needs of education because with knowledge, thriving learning institutions such Milton Hershey School and the New York Public Library

would not have existed if people like Milton Hershey and Samuel Tilden hoarded their money and did not value the concept of education. Today, President Obama encourages that the nation should value the education in school systems across the country. In closing one of his speeches, President Obama notes on October 25, 2005 that, "It is time to instill the belief that every child that they can succeed - and then make sure we make good on the promise to never let them down. Thank you."

Works Cited

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