

John Nagle

Pres Russell Klitzing

Dr Tenbrook
(Pres. Emeritus)
21 yrs President
+ founder

ADDRESS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY

HONORABLE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

AT

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JULY 8, 1965

Minnesota
Engvald
Dunderson

The Award

It is an inspiration to be -- once again -- the
guest of this great convention. - Welcome to D.C. - We need
you.

A man in public office is privileged to meet with
many fine organizations. Few uplift the heart and the
mind more than your own fine Federation.

For 25 years, you have proven what private indi-
viduals, united in a common cause, can achieve for their
Country and for their fellow citizens. Your members have
demonstrated the invincible power of the spirit. They

have proven their ability to conquer a physical lack, to live normal lives, indeed, often extraordinarily productive lives.

Your Federation has compiled a remarkable fruitful record -- nationally, in the states, cities and rural areas.

✓ You have brought hope to countless thousands of the blind where, before, they had been so much hopelessness.

✓ You have encouraged self-help by the blind in place of dependency.

✓ You have helped build a whole new climate -- of opinion, of understanding -- on the part of the American public and of officials. You have fostered understanding where before there was so much ignorance and prejudice.

✓ You have never hoisted a white flag of surrender. Instead, you have made the white cane a symbol of courage.

white cane

of nobility -- of reaching out to the world, rather than
retreating; a symbol of maximum independence,

↳ For all this, I commend you. America is proud of
you.

↳ The proof of your achievement is that what once
had been private goals -- your goals -- have now become
public, official goals, our goals as a nation. !

Compassion
Concern

↳ This Administration seeks to build a Great Society.

Compassion
Concern

The goal of the Great Society is opportunity: oppor-
tunity for every man to realize his highest potential.

↳ We are striving for this goal by opening wide the
gates which had been closed -- closed because of race,
creed, color or sex, because of poverty, illness or
disability.

↳ And we are helping our fellow citizens to walk
through these gates.

Today we are fulfilling many of the hopes, yes, the visions, of your own Federation and of other pioneering organizations.

Your great founder ~~Jacobus~~ ^{Dr.} Ten Brook had this vision. He had a gift of foresight -- which others who had the blessing of physical sight -- did not possess.

And your dynamic Washington representative, my friend, John F. Nagle, has helped turn ^{this} vision into reality -- by his devoted efforts.

Among many other good battles, John has fought for a victory which will soon be ours -- the triumph of the ~~committee~~ bill known as Medicare.

The Bill does not contain all the features which many sponsors over the years had wished. But it does assure for employees and the self-employed -- in their senior years -- hospital insurance, out-patient and nursing home care through an expanded system of

payroll contributions.

It supplements Ken Mills

And other provisions of the Bill -- less publicized --

will have a tremendously beneficial effect, particularly

for the blind. Under a new Title 19 of the Social

Security Act, state medical assistance to the needy

will be greatly expanded, diversified and liberalized;

restrictions of the means test will be eased.

For those handicapped citizens who cannot look after

themselves, Federal financial assistance will be provided --

for the first time -- to enable States to make payments to

a responsible third party such as a social agency or a

clergyman.

Cash benefits will be increased -- if only modestly.

When the Bill emerges from conference, it will not satisfy

every need -- of the blind or others. But it is a long step

forward.

But / The "longest journey is the first step."

we move forward.

/ Your Federation has taken many, many steps forward.
You have come a long way. And I regard it as a great

honor to have walked with you and worked with you.

/ Three times I have met with your fine conventions --
National or State.

/ Eighteen years ago, as Mayor of Minneapolis, I
welcomed your members to that great City for your 7th
Annual Convention.

/ Five years ago, as United States Senator from
Minnesota, I attended another very enthusiastic convention --
of the United Blind of Minnesota.

And today, I am so proud to meet with you again,
proud to receive your plaque, to greet so many old,
dear friends, and I hope, to make new ones.

/ May your 25th Anniversary Convention be the
greatest ever.

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Long may the Federation flourish in its service,
in its leadership.

Long may the courageous blind help to lead a
courageous America to a better life for all.

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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
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