

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

AT DEDICATION OF GEORGE HEGYI TRAINING CENTER

DERBY, CONNECTICUT

JUNE 6, 1971 - 2:30 P.M.

I am delighted to join with you today in this joyful occasion -- the dedication of the George Hegyi Training Center. I congratulate you on this outstanding accomplishment, on the realization of a dream that five communities working together have made possible for their mentally retarded citizens.

As has so often been the case, the parents of persons with this handicap have led the way. Your supportive voices and cooperative leadership have succeeded in bringing together the talent and the bricks and the mortar to give opportunity to your children.

For whatever reasons we have been slow as a nation to acknowledge -- or at least to provide to every child in our country the fundamental right that he should have to educational and health services from birth.

If that child be handicapped, then he and his family have all the more need for this type of supportive assistance. Without good health and training, he will forever be denied the equality of opportunity that should be his birthright in a democracy.

Experts in child development advise us that the range of an individual's intelligence is determined during the very early years of life. And yet, because of the lack of early childhood educational and health services, the majority of children who are mentally retarded are not discovered until they reach school age.

Thus, some very valuable years are lost. Because of our inaction we find children lingering in classrooms ill prepared to serve them and often unnecessarily handicapped by such disorders as vision and hearing difficulties which could have been corrected had they been discovered in a good health screening program.

There is no question, but that innovative attention to early childhood health and education is desperately needed. There are encouraging signs that this is being recognized, but organizations such as yours must still provide the impetus necessary to carry the search for answers forward.

With the construction of this center, you are highlighting the tremendous value of small, well-placed facilities right in the communities where the retarded live.

Too many of our nation's six million mentally retarded citizens are hidden away from the world in inadequate, outdated facilities which are in effect massive, human warehouses. Instead they should be living, going to school, being trained -- and, if they can, working for a living in the communities of which they are really a part.

There continues to be a tremendous need for small community based facilities of all kinds -- schools, sheltered workshops, training centers, group homes and other smaller residential units, social centers, where those who need support and guidance can obtain it while still living close to the people they know and love.

To achieve these goals we must give the public at large a clearer understanding of the handicapped person and his potential.

A survey for the President's Committee on Mental Retardation has revealed that ignorance of the potential of those with this handicap and public misinformation are the major reasons why communities fail to provide adequate programs and services for the retarded. They are also the reasons why many parents do not come forward for help for their children.

Those making the survey wisely urged that the potential achievements of the retarded as independent members of the community and as economically productive persons should be the primary focus of a public information program.

I heartily concur. As Mrs. Humphrey often reminds me, it is time to cease talking about what the retarded cannot do and concentrate on what they can do.

There are, of course, those severely retarded persons who cannot benefit from training, nor is it advisable for them to remain within the family unit.

But, if they could be housed closer to the communities in which their families reside, it would greatly relieve parents who could visit them more often and reassure themselves that their children were receiving adequate care.

We should cease hiding our retarded, as we have our mentally ill, out in the countryside.

If we can help focus attention on the needs, on new concepts of prevention, retraining and vocational achievement, it may be that far less money is ultimately required than would be spent perpetuating outmoded, unproductive, custodial concepts.

What makes it imperative for us to give our best efforts to increasing opportunity for our retarded citizens is the fact that at least one third of the six million persons who are mentally retarded today are capable of earning a living and being self-supporting, productive members of the community if adequate residential facilities and vocational help can be provided for them.

Under the prodding of President John Kennedy, whose sister is mentally retarded, the Federal Government discovered this new labor resource. It has a successful hiring program that has placed some 7,300 men and women into jobs, and at least a dozen state governments and some innovative private businesses have followed suit.

What excites government and these businessmen is the realization that the retarded can perform routine tasks with expertise when properly trained and they do not readily tire of this type of work. Therefore, labor expenses are reduced through eliminating the usual high rate of turnover in these positions and more qualified workers can be given jobs with greater challenge.

As I once reminded the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in Washington, we are an affluent country, but we are not so rich that we can be prodigal with any human resources. Our handicapped must be able to participate fully in every phase of society. We simply cannot afford to be deprived of their talents and skills. We cannot afford the loss of their wasted ability.

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Valley Association for Retarded Children
+ Adults.

- Joseph Ramano - President of VARCA
- Mayor Ramano.

Dr Foot (Commissioner of Health
Congressman John Monrigan

Dr Deering - (M.C)

Ms Ann Hays (Andrew, Michael, Kenneth)

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

~~Mr Stanley Meyer~~ Stanley Meyer

AT DEDICATION OF GEORGE HEGYI TRAINING CENTER

Hays

DERBY, CONNECTICUT

Rev clergy

JUNE 6, 1971 - 2:30 P.M.

Whicarians

Scouts

Joseph Ferrara
Soloist

"W" of Bridgeport
068100

"Vicki" - spec olympic
Gold Medal

God Dampney

Commissioner

Mansfield School

BIRCH SCHMICKEL

I AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN WITH YOU TODAY IN THIS JOYFUL

Hagyee

OCCASION -- THE DEDICATION OF THE GEORGE HEGYI TRAINING

CENTER. I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS OUTSTANDING

ACCOMPLISHMENT, ON THE REALIZATION OF A DREAM THAT

COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER HAVE MADE POSSIBLE FOR

THEIR MENTALLY RETARDED CITIZENS.

AS HAS SO OFTEN BEEN THE CASE, THE PARENTS OF PERSONS

WITH THIS HANDICAP HAVE LED THE WAY. YOUR SUPPORTIVE

VOICES AND COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP HAVE SUCCEEDED IN

BRINGING TOGETHER THE TALENT, THE BRICKS AND THE

MORTAR TO GIVE OPPORTUNITY TO YOUR CHILDREN.

Great Program

People Love It!

Thank you, thank you
Galley

SIX
FIVE

very slow -

L FOR WHATEVER REASONS, WE HAVE BEEN SLOW AS A NATION

TO ACKNOWLEDGE -- OR AT LEAST TO PROVIDE TO EVERY

CHILD IN OUR COUNTRY THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT THAT HE SHOULD

HAVE TO EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES FROM BIRTH.

L IF THAT CHILD BE HANDICAPPED, THEN HE AND HIS

FAMILY HAVE ALL THE MORE NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF SUPPORTIVE

ASSISTANCE *oh* WITHOUT GOOD HEALTH AND TRAINING, HE WILL

FOREVER BE DENIED THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY THAT

SHOULD BE HIS BIRTHRIGHT IN A DEMOCRACY.

L EXPERTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT ADVISE US THAT THE

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DURING THE VERY EARLY YEARS OF LIFE.

close to the child

child

AND YET, BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL
AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN WHO ARE
 MENTALLY RETARDED ARE NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL THEY REACH
SCHOOL AGE.

L THUS, SOME VERY VALUABLE YEARS ARE LOST. L BECAUSE
 OF OUR INACTION, WE FIND CHILDREN LINGERING IN CLASSROOMS,
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BUT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YOURS MUST STILL PROVIDE THE

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WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS CENTER, YOU ARE
 HIGHLIGHTING THE TREMENDOUS VALUE OF SMALL, WELL-PLACED

FACILITIES RIGHT IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THE RETARDED

LIVE.

Parents & their loved ones

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RETARDED CITIZENS ARE HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE WORLD IN

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MASSIVE, HUMAN WAREHOUSES. INSTEAD THEY SHOULD BE LIVING,

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WORKING FOR A LIVING IN THE COMMUNITIES OF WHICH THEY

ARE REALLY A PART.

✓ THERE CONTINUES TO BE A TREMENDOUS NEED FOR SMALL
COMMUNITY BASED FACILITIES OF ALL KINDS -- SCHOOLS,
SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, TRAINING CENTERS, GROUP HOMES AND
OTHER SMALLER RESIDENTIAL UNITS, SOCIAL CENTERS, WHERE
THOSE WHO NEED SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE CAN OBTAIN IT
WHILE STILL LIVING CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE THEY KNOW AND
LOVE.

✓ TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, WE MUST GIVE THE PUBLIC
~~THE~~ A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HANDICAPPED PERSON
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h A SURVEY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MENTAL
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ARE THE MAJOR REASONS WHY COMMUNITIES FAIL TO PROVIDE
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FOR HELP FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

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INFORMATION PROGRAM.

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L I HEARTILY CONCUR, L AS MRS. HUMPHREY OFTEN REMINDS

ME, IT IS TIME TO CEASE TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE RETARDED

CANNOT DO AND CONCENTRATE ON WHAT THEY CAN DO.

L THERE ARE, OF COURSE, THOSE SEVERELY RETARDED

PERSONS WHO CANNOT BENEFIT FROM TRAINING, NOR IS IT

ADVISABLE FOR THEM TO REMAIN WITHIN THE FAMILY UNIT.

L BUT, IF THEY COULD BE HOUSED CLOSER TO THE

COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEIR FAMILIES RESIDE, IT WOULD

GREATLY RELIEVE PARENTS WHO COULD VISIT THEM MORE OFTEN

AND REASSURE THEMSELVES THAT THEIR CHILDREN WERE

RECEIVING ADEQUATE CARE.

~~WE SHOULD CEASE HIDING OUR RETARDED, AS WE HAVE~~

~~OUR MENTALLY ILL, OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.~~

L IF WE CAN HELP FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE NEEDS, ON NEW
 CONCEPTS OF PREVENTION, RETRAINING AND VOCATIONAL
 ACHIEVEMENT, IT MAY BE THAT FAR LESS MONEY IS ULTIMATELY
 REQUIRED THAN WOULD BE SPENT PERPETUATING OUTMODED,
 UNPRODUCTIVE, CUSTODIAL CONCEPTS.

L WHAT MAKES IT IMPERATIVE FOR US TO GIVE OUR BEST
 EFFORTS TO INCREASING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR RETARDED
 CITIZENS, IS THE FACT THAT, AT LEAST $\frac{1}{3}$ OF THE ⁶SIX
 MILLION PERSONS WHO ARE MENTALLY RETARDED TODAY ARE
 CAPABLE OF EARNING A LIVING AND BEING SELF-SUPPORTING,
 PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, IF ADEQUATE RESIDENTIAL
 FACILITIES AND VOCATIONAL HELP CAN BE PROVIDED FOR THEM.

L UNDER THE PRODDING OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY, WHOSE
 SISTER IS MENTALLY RETARDED, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
 DISCOVERED THIS NEW ^{Productive} ~~LABOR~~ RESOURCE ^{Today there is} ~~IT IS~~ A SUCCESSFUL
^{in the Federal Govt}
 HIRING PROGRAM, THAT HAS PLACED SOME 7,300 MEN AND WOMEN

INTO JOBS, AND AT LEAST A DOZEN STATE GOVERNMENTS AND

SOME INNOVATIVE PRIVATE BUSINESSES HAVE FOLLOWED SUIT,

L WHAT EXCITES GOVERNMENT ^{officials} AND ~~THESE~~ BUSINESSMEN IS

THE REALIZATION THAT THE RETARDED CAN PERFORM ROUTINE

TASKS WITH EXPERTISE WHEN PROPERLY TRAINED, ~~AND~~ THEY

DO NOT READILY TIRE OF THIS TYPE OF WORK. L THEREFORE,

LABOR ^{costs} ~~EXPENSES~~ ARE REDUCED THROUGH ELIMINATING THE USUAL

HIGH RATE OF TURNOVER IN THESE POSITIONS AND MORE

QUALIFIED WORKERS CAN BE GIVEN JOBS WITH GREATER CHALLENGE.

I ONCE REMINDED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED IN WASHINGTON, ^{that} WE ARE AN

AFFLUENT COUNTRY, BUT WE ARE NOT SO RICH THAT WE CAN

BE ~~WASTEFUL~~ ^{wasteful} WITH ANY ^{your} HUMAN RESOURCES. OUR HANDICAPPED

MUST BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN EVERY PHASE OF

SOCIETY. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO BE DEPRIVED OF

THEIR TALENTS AND SKILLS. WE CANNOT AFFORD THE LOSS

OF THEIR WASTED ABILITY.

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