

(Script for Recording by Senator Humphrey)

I would like to talk to you, the men and women of Minnesota, about children--
your children and mine. I have four of my own, as you may know. Of course, I
hate to think of anything ever happening to them. And I know that the thought of
something happening to one of your children is probably far from your mind. But
we all know that tragedy can and does strike in many families--more often than we
like to think.

Here's something, though, that you probably didn't know--cancer kills more
children, under 15, in Minnesota, than any other disease. I was certainly
surprised when I heard this; I've always thought of cancer as a disease of the
later years.

It is tragic that so many young children fall victim every year to this
disease. And the worst part of the picture is that the most common type of cancer
among children, leukemia, has no known cure--at this time. Although research has
given us new ways of treating leukemia, ways which now can prolong the child's
life by months or even years, a cure is yet to be found. Future research must
find the answer.

There is a bright side to this picture, however. Advances in research are
being made all the time--research supported by the dollars of a generous American
public. Not only research in leukemia, but research in all the aspects of this
complex disease. This research has given us bolder surgical practices, new drugs
which prolong the lives of many cancer patients, and more and more insights into
the causes of cancer. Cures are being made every day--every seven minutes, in
fact, an American is saved from death by cancer. Last year, in Minnesota alone,
1,400 lives were saved by treatment that was begun in time, while the cancer was
still in the curable stage.

Much has been done. Much more remains to be done. I urge you to help yourself, as the American Cancer Society recommends, by getting regular medical check-ups--your best insurance against cancer. And I urge, also, that you help others by continuing your wonderful support of the American Cancer Society's three-fold program of research, education, and service to cancer patients. Send your contribution today to Cancer, care of your local post office.



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