

- Gov. & Mrs. Smith

- Lt. Kellian

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- State Repres. Don Canard

- State Rep. Walter Parker

- Mayor Finley

- Commissioner - David Wade

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

VOLUNTEER COUNCIL'S ANNUAL RECOGNITION BANQUET

DENTON STATE SCHOOL

DENTON, TEXAS

OCTOBER 18, 1971

600 volunteers ca. month
45,000 hrs

I AM HAPPY TO JOIN THIS EVENING IN THIS WARM

^{thanks}
EXPRESSION OF TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE RETARDED AT DENTON STATE ^{School}

YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FOR THE

RETARDED IN MY OWN FAMILY -- MY WIFE, MURIEL. ^{AND}

SHE SHARES FULLY YOUR DEDICATION, YOUR DEEP INVOLVEMENT,

YOUR LOVE FOR THIS NOBLE WORK,

^{work & service}
/ YOU WHO ~~work~~ AT THE DENTON STATE SCHOOL, AS

VOLUNTEERS OR AS REGULAR STAFF, HAVE A TREMENDOUS

RESPONSIBILITY. ^{work & service} / YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE A HOME,

ALONG WITH THE CARE AND TRAINING THAT ARE NEEDED, FOR

SOME 1700 RESIDENTS.

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L SOME OF THESE 1700 PEOPLE MAY RESIDE HERE MANY
YEARS -- AND THEY MAY ONLY KNOW OR REMEMBER LIFE AS IT WAS
EXPERIENCED HERE.

L YOUR KINDNESSES, YOUR ATTENTION TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL
NEEDS, YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR HANDICAP, YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT
IN ACHIEVING NEW GOALS ^{will} HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON
THEIR LIVES.

L AND, HOW YOU INTERPRET THEM AND THEIR NEEDS TO
OTHERS CAN ALSO HAVE A DECISIVE EFFECT ON COMMUNITY
ACCEPTANCE, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, AND THE TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL,
HEALTH AND OTHER SERVICES THAT CITIZENS IN YOUR AREA
WILL BE WILLING TO SUPPORT.

Lobby

L THERE IS NO ONE WHO IS BETTER PREPARED TO BE
AMBASSADORS OR SPOKESMEN -- AND, YES, LOBBYISTS, FOR THE
RETARDED THAN YOU. L I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO SPEAK OUT
ON THEIR BEHALF, TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEIR RIGHTS ARE
PROTECTED, THAT THEY HAVE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WANT AND
SEEK -- EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.
L A SURVEY ^{by} ~~for~~ THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MENTAL
RETARDATION HAS REVEALED THAT IGNORANCE OF THE POTENTIAL
OF THOSE WITH THIS HANDICAP ^{plus} ~~and~~ PUBLIC MISINFORMATION
ARE THE MAJOR REASONS WHY COMMUNITIES FAIL TO PROVIDE
ADEQUATE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE RETARDED. L THEY
ARE ALSO THE REASONS WHY MANY PARENTS DO NOT COME FORWARD
FOR HELP FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

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P.R.

↳ THOSE MAKING THE SURVEY WISELY URGED THAT THE
POTENTIAL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE RETARDED AS INDEPENDENT
MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND AS ECONOMICALLY PRODUCTIVE
PERSONS SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF A PUBLIC
INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.

↳ I HEARTILY CONCUR AND APPLAUD EFFORTS IN THIS
DIRECTION. ↳ AS MURIEL OFTEN REMINDS ME, IT IS TIME TO
CEASE TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE RETARDED CANNOT DO AND
CONCENTRATE ON WHAT THEY CAN DO!

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~~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 6 MILLION
PERSONS WHO ARE ACTUALLY RETARDED TODAY ARE CAPABLE

OF EARNING A LIVING AND BEING SELF-SUPPORTING, PRODUCTIVE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IF ADEQUATE TRAINING AND

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED FOR THEM.

Training

~~FOR WHATEVER REASON, WE HAVE BEEN SLOW A~~ ~~CTION~~

~~TO ACKNOWLEDGE OR~~ ~~TO PROVIDE EVERY CHILD IN OUR~~

~~COUNTRY THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT THAT WE~~ ~~TO~~

~~EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES FROM BIRTH.~~

has
opportunity - and the right
to health. This applies
to all children - Gifted, Normal,
exceptional, Special Handicapped.

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L IF THAT CHILD IS HANDICAPPED, THEN HE AND HIS
 FAMILY HAVE ALL THE MORE NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF

SUPPORTIVE ASSISTANCE. L WITHOUT GOOD HEALTH AND TRAINING,

HE WILL FOREVER BE DENIED THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

THAT SHOULD BE HIS BIRTHRIGHT. ^{and is} ~~DEMOCRACY~~.

L EXPERTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT ADVISE US THAT THE
 RANGE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S INTELLIGENCE IS DETERMINED

DURING THE VERY EARLY YEARS OF LIFE L AND YET, BECAUSE

OF THE LACK OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH (restriction)

SERVICES, THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN WHO ARE MENTALLY

RETARDED ARE NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL THEY REACH SCHOOL AGE.

L This simply means some
~~THE~~ AS I KNOW YOU DISCOVER HERE IN YOUR WORK, SOME

VERY VALUABLE YEARS ARE LOST.

L 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.

DAY CARE
L I KNOW THAT YOU HERE AT DENTON STATE SCHOOL ARE
CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEED FOR DAY CARE SERVICES FOR THE
RETARDED.

L FOR ALL CHILDREN, THE AVAILABILITY OF MODERN DAY CARE
HELP IS NO LONGER AN INDIVIDUAL CONVENIENCE, IT HAS
BECOME A COMMUNITY AND A NATIONAL NECESSITY.

L ONE-THIRD OF MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF
SIX, SOME FOUR-AND-ONE-HALF MILLION, ARE WORKING TODAY.

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summary
THIS MEANS THAT THERE ARE ⁶ MILLION PRESCHOOL

CHILDREN IN NEED OF DEVELOPMENTAL DAY CARE SERVICES

WHILE THEIR MOTHERS ARE OUT OF THE HOME.

L YET THERE ARE LESS THAN 700,000 LICENSED DAY CARE
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE L AND HEADSTART PRESENTLY SERVES

ONLY ABOUT 263,000 CHILDREN IN FULL-YEAR PROGRAMS AND

208,000 IN SUMMER PROGRAMS.

L A DAY CARE PROGRAM IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO THE
FAMILY WITH A HANDICAPPED CHILD.

L NOT ONLY IS URGENTLY NEEDED TRAINING PROVIDED, BUT IT

PERMITS THE MOTHER A RESPIRE FROM 24-HOUR CARE OF A

RETARDED CHILD WHICH MAY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

WHETHER HE CAN REMAIN AT HOME OR MUST LIVE IN A

RESIDENTIAL FACILITY.

I COMMEND YOUR INNOVATIVE EFFORT HERE TO OFFER
TEMPORARY CARE FOR A RETARDED PERSON -- WHOSE FAMILY
MAY NEED SUCH A RESPITE,

Pantry
L AND AMONG THE NATION'S POOR, MALNUTRITION, CROWDED
AND DILAPIDATED HOUSING AND A GENERALLY INADEQUATE
LEVEL OF LIVING TAKE THEIR TOLL, TOO.

L THE CITIZEN'S BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION ESTIMATES THAT 10 MILLION AMERICANS ARE
"SLOWLY STARVING." L MANY ARE CHILDREN. WITHOUT
ASSISTANCE, THESE CHILDREN WILL BE DULL, LISTLESS AND
POOR THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

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Penalty + Retardation

L How GREAT THE TOLL HAS BEEN IN THE PAST IS REFLECTED
IN THE STARTLING STATISTIC -- THAT IN THE POOR
NEIGHBORHOODS OF THIS COUNTRY IS FOUND 75 PER CENT OF ALL
THE MENTAL RETARDATION.

L So IT IS VITAL THAT THOSE WORKING ON BEHALF OF
THE RETARDED CONCERN THEMSELVES AS WELL WITH RELATED
SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND HUMAN NEEDS.

L SUCH INVOLVEMENT CAN SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCE THE
COURSE OF MENTAL RETARDATION IN THIS COUNTRY.

L NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN I THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST
RETARDATION WILL NOT BE WON IN WASHINGTON. *But,* WASHINGTON CAN
AND MUST TAKE THE LEAD TO HELP MAKE VICTORY POSSIBLE. *But,*

THE DAY-TO-DAY FIGHT WILL BE WAGED AND WON AS ALWAYS ON THE
LOCAL FRONT, ~~WHICH ALL OF US IN GOVERNMENT TRY TO SERVE.~~

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L IT WILL BE WON WHERE TEACHERS TEACH RETARDED

CHILDREN -- WHERE RESEARCHERS STUDY THE ORGANIC CAUSES

OF MENTAL RETARDATION -- WHERE PARENT ASSOCIATIONS TOIL

TO BUILD COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ACTIVITIES, *It will be*

work WHERE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ~~ARE AVAILABLE~~ *are available to the*

RETARDED AND ~~ORGANIZE~~ *1* ORGANIZE PROGRAMS TO SERVE THEM -- WHERE

COMMUNITY ACTION WORKERS STRIVE TO OVERCOME THE CONDITIONS

OF DEPRIVATION THAT CREATE SO MUCH OF THE MENTAL

RETARDATION THAT EXISTS IN URBAN AND RURAL AMERICA.

L THESE ARE THE FRONT LINES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST

MENTAL RETARDATION. *L* AND ONE OF THE CONTINUING CHALLENGES

OF THOSE WORKING ON ALL LEVELS IS TO ASSURE THAT THE

LOGISTICS EFFORT WORKS WELL AND SMOOTHLY.

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L WE MUST ASSURE THAT CURRENT KNOWLEDGE REACHES THE PUBLIC

AND THOSE WHO CAN PUT IT TO USE.

L STAFFORD WARREN, PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSISTANT FOR
MENTAL RETARDATION, MAINTAINED THAT THE TOLL OF MENTAL

RETARDATION COULD BE REDUCED BY FULLY ONE-HALF IF ALL

WE KNOW TODAY COULD BE APPLIED SUCCESSFULLY EVERYWHERE.

L IT IS, OF COURSE, ESSENTIAL TO PLAN, TO STUDY, TO

REVIEW, TO ANALYZE PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE RETARDED.

L BUT, THIS IS FOR NAUGHT, IN MY JUDGMENT, IF ALL OF THIS

ACTIVITY DOES NOT AFFECT THE LIVES OF THE MENTALLY

RETARDED AND THEIR FAMILIES IN A POSITIVE WAY.

L YOU WHO ARE WORKING ~~ON BEHALF~~ ON BEHALF OF THE

RETARDED ARE DOING SO DURING AN EXCITING TIME.

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h SO MANY BREAKTHROUGHS HAVE BEEN MADE AND ARE BEING

MADE IN THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED,

h THE GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THIS PROBLEM IS ITSELF

A MAJOR VICTORY,

h AND I AM ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL
CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS THAT I SEE BEING MADE IN RESIDENTIAL
FACILITIES,

h YOUR WORK HERE AT THE DENTON STATE SCHOOL IS AN
OUTSTANDING ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WHEN
THERE IS A UNIFIED EFFORT TO ASSURE THE RETARDED RESIDENT
THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP HIS PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL AND
SOCIAL CAPACITIES TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

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YOU ARE CERTAINLY AN INSPIRATION TO ME AND I KNOW
YOU ARE TO MANY OTHERS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEEDS
OF THE RETARDED.

WE ARE ^{*rich*} ~~a~~ ~~WASTE~~ COUNTRY, BUT WE ARE NOT SO RICH
THAT WE CAN BE ^{*wasteful*} ~~WASTEFUL~~ WITH ANY HUMAN RESOURCES. *Our*
HANDICAPPED MUST BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE
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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