

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

JAYCEE AWARDS BANQUET

MIAMI, FLORIDA

MARCH 4, 1972

IT'S ALMOST BECOMING A CLICHE TO TALK ABOUT
AMERICA AS A DRUG-RIDDEN SOCIETY. WE'VE ALL HEARD
THE STATISTICS ABOUT WHAT IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS
"DRUG ABUSE":

--AN ESTIMATED 375,000 AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE HEROIN
ADDICTS, NOT TO MENTION THE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG MEN
WHO ACQUIRED THE HABIT AS AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD OF
SERVING IN VIETNAM.

--HARD-CORE ADDICTS STEAL MORE THAN \$1 BILLION IN
PROPERTY EACH YEAR TO MAINTAIN THEIR HABIT.

--THERE WERE 1,259 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN NEW YORK
CITY LAST YEAR; 310 IN CHICAGO, AND 48 IN MIAMI.

--EIGHTEEN PERCENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE USED
HALLUCINOGENIC DRUGS LIKE LSD AT LEAST ONCE, AND 51 PERCENT
HAVE SMOKED MARIJUANA, ACCORDING TO A RECENT GALLUP
POLL, AND THIS KIND OF EXPERIMENTATION HAS EXTENDED EVEN
TO OUR GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

THESE ARE TERRIBLE STATISTICS, BUT THE PROBLEM ^{IS} MUCH
DEEPER THAN THAT. WE HAVE ONLY TO LOOK AT OUR OWN
CHOCK-FULL MEDICINE CABINETS TO REALIZE HOW MUCH WE RELY
ON CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TO GET US THROUGH THE BIG AND
LITTLE PAINS OF LIFE.

AND HERE IS AN ASPECT OF DRUG ABUSE THAT WE DON'T USUALLY
CONSIDER: HOW OFTEN DO WE BUY PRODUCTS THAT WE DON'T
KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT JUST BECAUSE WE'VE HEARD THEM ADVERTIZED?

THIS PROBLEM IS ESPECIALLY ACUTE FOR URBAN DWELLERS
BECAUSE LACK OF GOOD HEALTH CARE DELIVERY MAKES THE
T.V. BECOME THEIR DOCTOR. ADVERTIZED PRODUCTS ARE BOUGHT
OVER THE COUNTER, OFTEN TREATING ONLY THE SYMPTOMS OF AN
ILLNESS, RATHER THAN THE ILLNESS ITSELF.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS?

I RECENTLY PROPOSED A FIVE-PRONGED OFFENSIVE AGAINST
DRUG ABUSE IN THIS COUNTRY:

--IT CALLS FOR A MASSIVE INCREASE IN FEDERAL SPENDING
FOR DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION.

--IT ESTABLISHES A FEDERAL DRUG CURE AND CONTROL
AGENCY TO PULL TOGETHER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT
FRAGMENTED EFFORTS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, DRUG TREATMENT AND

EDUCATION.

--IT ASKS FOR AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO REACH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO CUT OFF THE FLOW OF HEROIN INTO THE UNITED STATES.

--IT CALLS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE SELF-POLICING WITHIN THE MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PROFESSIONS OF THE PROMISCUOUS DISPENSING AND PRESCRIBING OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

--AND IT ASKS FOR THE IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE AND A SERIES OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES ON DRUG ABUSE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT YOU MUST DO IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE.

THE TASK MUST INVOLVE COOPERATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS,

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, COURTS, LOCAL DOCTORS AND
PHARMACISTS, ELECTED AND APPOINTED COMMUNITY OFFICIALS,
THE COMMUNICATION MEDIA AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS,

SCHOOLS HAVE A DOUBLE ROLE TO PLAY.

DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS MUST EXTEND BEYOND FAMILIARIZING
CHILDREN WITH TERMS AND CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS, TO BOLSTERING
THEIR SENSES OF SELF-WORTH, RESPONSIBILITY AND BELONGING
IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM FROM FEELING A NEED FOR DRUGS IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

AND SCHOOLS SITUATED AS THEY ARE IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS
THROUGHOUT AN AREA, ARE THE PERFECT LINKS IN A COMMUNITY'S
DRUG ABUSE ACTION CHAIN.

THEY CAN SERVE AFTER HOURS AS PARENT EDUCATION CENTERS
AND MEETING PLACES FOR CITIZEN GROUPS PLANNING DRUG ABUSE
STRATEGIES FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES,

LOCAL JUDGES AND POLICE OFFICIALS CAN MEET WITH THESE
GROUPS TO TALK ABOUT THEIR SPECIAL PROBLEMS DEALING WITH
DRUG ABUSERS, AND THE CITIZENS CAN TALK ABOUT THE KIND OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT THEY EXPECT TO WIPE OUT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC,

I BELIEVE COMMUNITY OFFICIALS HAVE A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY,
BOTH IN CHANNELING LOCAL FUNDS TO THE RIGHT KINDS OF
PROJECTS FOR THE MOST CRUCIAL PROBLEMS, AND IN FINDING OUT
WHAT'S AVAILABLE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,

AND I HAVE LONG ADVOCATED EXPANDING COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH CENTERS TO OFFER ADDICT TREATMENT PROGRAMS.

LOCAL DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS ARE ALSO VERY IMPORTANT
IN A COMMUNITY'S FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

OVER 75 PERCENT OF THE DRUGS IN CURRENT USE WERE NOT
AVAILABLE A GENERATION AGO. LOCAL MEDICAL BOARDS CAN
HELP OUR OVER BURDENED DOCTORS KEEP ABREAST OF NEW PRODUCTS
AVAILABLE BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NEWLY DISCOVERED
HARMFUL OR BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF DRUGS THEY MAY ALREADY BE
PRESCRIBING.

AND THE MEDIA--THE NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, TELEVISION
AND RADIO--HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN GETTING THE MESSAGE OF
DRUG ABUSE ACTION BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

DRUG ABUSE IS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST PROBLEMS WE FACE IN
THE NATION TODAY.

BUT BY USING THE HUMAN RESOURCES WE HAVE RIGHT IN OUR
OWN COMMUNITIES, AND BY INSISTING ON BEEFED -UP FEDERAL
PROGRAMS THAT EACH COMMUNITY CAN SHARE IN, AMERICANS CAN
WIN THE WAR ON DRUGS.

WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DESPAIR,
THE AGONY, THE CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AND THE LOSS OF HUMAN
LIFE LEFT BEHIND IN THE SPREADING WAKE OF DRUG ABUSE
CANNOT BE WON IN WASHINGTON.

THE BATTLE FRONT IS THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE. IT'S
IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND IN YOUR ~~NEIGHBORHOOD~~ NEIGHBORHOOD
WHERE WE MUST BEGIN TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

Atty Gen Bob Shriver - Neal Sonnett

Greater Miami Jaycees
March 4, 1972

Barry Richard - ast Atty Gen

Chuck Hall
Dave Kennedy

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President Bill Moore

AMERICA AS A DRUG-RIDDEN SOCIETY. WE'VE ALL HEARD

Richards Raiders - Holt

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"Parker To People"
In Sitten America.
Student Union

Bill
Resurrection

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