

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ST. PAUL REHABILITATION CENTER

ANNUAL MEETING

St. Paul, Minnesota

April 15, 1976

I am very pleased to be with you tonight. This occasion is especially meaningful to me because of my long interest and deep concern for the care, treatment and opportunities provided by this Nation for its handicapped citizens.

As you know, my Senate career began in 1949, about a year after the St. Paul Rehabilitation Center opened as a physical and occupational therapy center. We've all come a long way since then. Through a series of consolidations, the Center has developed a unique program of comprehensive services for the handicapped of this area.

In this season of hope, I'd like to join in paying tribute to the important role the Center has played in providing hope -- and help -- for the many who have passed through its doors.

These achievements are punctuated by those honored here tonight -- Shawn Chavie and Mark Boyd -- and by the hundreds of professionals, lay volunteers, and parents, who have devoted their time, their energies, and their talents to the work of the St. Paul Center.

Our most precious commodity, our hope for a brighter future for all Americans, is our people, particularly our children. The strength and viability of our Nation will depend to a great extent on the values, knowledge and skills we impart to them.

Our state of Minnesota, I'm proud to say, is a national leader in the field of care for the mentally retarded and physically handicapped. The St. Paul Rehabilitation Center is a working example of cooperation between government, the community, and private voluntary efforts in this regard.

I am happy to report that two significant pieces of legislation which I have long and vigorously supported have been enacted. Because of this, programs such as the St. Paul Center can continue to grow. I refer to the Education for all Handicapped Children Act and the Developmental Disabilities Amendments.

There are approximately eight million handicapped children between the ages of three and 21 in this country. Over a million of these children receive no educational opportunities whatsoever. Almost three million children, while in school, receive none of the special services they require in order to make education a meaningful experience.

Although Minnesota is one of the more progressive States, it has fallen below its intended goals. Sufficient funds have not been made available to serve all the handicapped children we originally planned to serve.

The outlook was equally bleak for other States as well. Enactment of the new legislation goes a long way in restoring the basic right to education for all handicapped children.

But the process does not stop with the passage of the law.

We must continue to work together as the regulations which implement the law are formulated to assure that our common goals are met.

Over nine million Americans today suffer from developmental disabilities. They truly constitute a "silent minority" in our society.

We have developed new innovative educational techniques and we have gained some understanding of the nature of these handicaps. But to provide the needed facilities, the specially trained teachers, and the specialized programs to effectively help handicapped people, we need a great deal of money.

Passage of the Developmental Disabilities Amendments, including a Bill of Rights for the Handicapped, makes great strides in both the quality of care and in the development of facilities.

Proposed amendments to the Medicare program to make free-standing rehabilitation centers, such as the St. Paul Center, providers of comprehensive rehabilitation, recently passed the Senate but were rejected by the House. When liberalized Medicare benefits are considered again by the Senate, these amendments surely will be raised.

Recent extension of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 at increased authorizations, and the Congressional override of the President's veto of appropriations for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, will help continue and expand the many programs designed to help our handicapped citizens achieve their full economic, social and personal potential.

Minnesota, too, has done much to inspire and compliment the Federal effort.

At a time when other States are considering reorganizations which represent a radical departure from the traditional delivery of services and funding, Minnesota has created a Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to emphasize further its commitment to the handicapped. To fulfill this commitment, the Minnesota Legislature has recently increased the appropriations for vocational rehabilitation.

But our work is far from over. We must continue to work through our professions and through organized consumer advocacy efforts on behalf of people with handicaps. These include the Minnesota Governor's Conference on the Handicapped and the Minnesota State Council for the Handicapped.

Too often our handicapped citizens have been the forgotten people. For a long time our country has done little to aid handicapped individuals to achieve that measure of self-fulfillment of which they are capable. There has been a hidden assumption that the handicapped person is a total invalid, that he cannot help himself, or that he must be protected from society or vice versa.

This is a costly conception both in terms of the human toll it takes on handicapped persons and their families, and in terms of the financial burdens it unnecessarily imposes on society.

The human dimension is paramount. One of the great political principles of our national life is that every person shall have an opportunity to achieve whatever degree of self-reliance and self-fulfillment he or she is capable of achieving.

The cost of rehabilitation is returned many times over in savings when individuals with handicaps are given the proper care, training, and motivation to leave the hospitals and institutions and become, to the extent possible, self-supporting and productive citizens.

Handicapped children, in particular, if given the proper education and equality of treatment in all other respects, can and do become productive, self-supporting and well-adjusted citizens.

Their own lives are brighter and all of society benefits from their contributions.

But we need to work together as a partnership to achieve our objectives. The system relies heavily on experts and concerned citizens such as yourselves to help set priorities, to continually examine the results, to realign these priorities as progress is made, and to look to the future.

Thomas Wolfe once said:

"To every man his chance; to every man regardless of his birth, his shining golden opportunity; to every man, the right to live, to work, to be himself and to become whatever thing his manhood and his wisdom can combine to make him -- this...is the promise of America."

These words express the promise dreamed of in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence held as self evident "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

This was the promise made when our government was created of the people, by the people and for the people to establish justice and to promote the general welfare of all its citizens.

In this Bicentennial year we must remember that through your future efforts you will be making a major contribution to helping others achieve and exercise the rights enjoyed and taken for granted by most Americans.

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Al Bang - Community Relations 1950's

⊗ Paul Sands

Incoming President
(not elected yet)

⊗ Rev Bunde

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

ST. PAUL REHABILITATION CENTER

Theme: "High Hopes"

ANNUAL MEETING

⊗ Jack Ashton - M.C.
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

⊗ President Richard Hoffman (Dick)
APRIL 15, 1976

- ✓ Rita Shaw - Community Relations Coordinator
- ✓ Ron Anderson - Exec Director

[Shawn Chaire (5 in August)]

[Mark Boyd of Northwestern Bell]

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT. THIS OCCASION
IS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL TO ME BECAUSE OF MY LONG INTEREST AND
DEEP CONCERN FOR THE CARE, TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED
BY THIS NATION FOR ITS HANDICAPPED CITIZENS.

High Hopes' at a time of cynicism!

AS YOU KNOW, MY SENATE CAREER BEGAN IN 1949, ABOUT A YEAR

AFTER THE ST. PAUL REHABILITATION CENTER OPENED AS A PHYSICAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CENTER.

as they lay on TV -

WE'VE ALL COME A LONG WAY

SINCE THEN THROUGH A SERIES OF CONSOLIDATIONS, THE CENTER

HAS DEVELOPED A UNIQUE PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR

THE HANDICAPPED OF THIS AREA.

*Therapeutic Child Development
- Hearing + Speech therapy
- Physical therapy, + occupational
- Vocational Rehabilitation therapy*

Easter
IN THIS SEASON OF HOPE, I'D LIKE TO JOIN IN PAYING TRIBUTE

TO THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE CENTER HAS PLAYED IN PROVIDING HOPE --

AND HELP -- FOR THE MANY WHO HAVE PASSED THROUGH ITS DOORS,

Your Annual Rpt - "Rehabilitation as a Quest for Independence"

*Therapeutic
Pre-School
Program*

Center Provider { Therapeutic Child Development
Hearing and Speech Therapy
Vocational Rehabilitation
Physical Rehabilitation - occupational therapy
THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE PUNCTUATED BY THOSE HONORED HERE

TONIGHT -- SHAWN CHAVIE AND MARK BOYD -- AND BY THE HUNDREDS OF
PROFESSIONALS, LAY VOLUNTEERS, AND PARENTS, WHO HAVE DEVOTED
THEIR TIME, THEIR ENERGIES, AND THEIR TALENTS TO THE WORK OF THE
ST. PAUL CENTER.

OUR MOST PRECIOUS ^{*Resource*} ~~community~~, OUR HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR ALL AMERICANS, IS OUR PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY OUR CHILDREN.

THE STRENGTH AND ^{*vitality*} ~~vitality~~ OF OUR NATION WILL DEPEND TO A GREAT
EXTENT ON THE VALUES, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WE IMPART TO THEM.

Miss Schulte { OUR STATE OF MINNESOTA, I'M PROUD TO SAY, IS A NATIONAL
LEADER IN THE FIELD OF CARE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED AND

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. THE ST. PAUL REHABILITATION CENTER IS

A WORKING EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, THE
COMMUNITY, AND PRIVATE VOLUNTARY EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD.

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT TWO SIGNIFICANT PIECES OF
LEGISLATION WHICH I HAVE LONG AND VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED HAVE
BEEN ENACTED. BECAUSE OF THIS, PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE ST. PAUL
CENTER CAN CONTINUE TO GROW. I REFER TO THE EDUCATION FOR ALL
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AMENDMENTS.

8 million
THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MILLION HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
BETWEEN THE AGES OF THREE AND 21 IN THIS COUNTRY. OVER A
MILLION OF THESE CHILDREN RECEIVE NO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
WHATSOEVER. ALMOST THREE MILLION CHILDREN, WHILE IN SCHOOL,
RECEIVE NONE OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES THEY REQUIRE IN ORDER TO
MAKE EDUCATION A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE.

ALTHOUGH MINNESOTA IS ONE OF THE MORE PROGRESSIVE STATES,

^{too}
IT HAS ²FALLEN BELOW ITS INTENDED GOALS. SUFFICIENT FUNDS HAVE
NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO SERVE ALL THE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

WE ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO SERVE,

Loss of Revenues
\$27 Billion

THE OUTLOOK WAS EQUALLY BLEAK FOR OTHER STATES AS WELL.

ENACTMENT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION GOES A LONG WAY IN RESTORING
THE BASIC RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

BUT THE PROCESS DOES NOT STOP WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS THE REGULATIONS WHICH
IMPLEMENT THE LAW ARE FORMULATED TO ASSURE THAT OUR COMMON GOALS
ARE MET.

OVER NINE MILLION AMERICANS TODAY SUFFER FROM DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES. THEY TRULY CONSTITUTE A "SILENT MINORITY" IN OUR
SOCIETY.

h WE HAVE DEVELOPED NEW INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL TECHNIQUES
AND WE HAVE GAINED SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THESE

HANDICAPS. h BUT TO PROVIDE THE NEEDED FACILITIES, THE SPECIALLY
TRAINED TEACHERS, AND THE SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS TO EFFECTIVELY
HELP HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, WE NEED A GREAT DEAL ^{more} ~~of~~ MONEY.

h ^{Cosponsor} PASSAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING
^{Cosponsor} A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, MAKES GREAT STRIDES IN BOTH
THE QUALITY OF CARE AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES.

h PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MEDICARE PROGRAM TO MAKE FREE-STANDING
REHABILITATION CENTERS, SUCH AS THE ST. PAUL CENTER, PROVIDERS OF
COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION, RECENTLY PASSED THE SENATE BUT WERE
REJECTED BY THE HOUSE. h WHEN LIBERALIZED MEDICARE BENEFITS ARE
CONSIDERED AGAIN BY THE SENATE, THESE AMENDMENTS SURELY WILL BE

~~RAISED.~~ offered again.

RECENT EXTENSION OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AT INCREASED
AUTHORIZATIONS, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERRIDE OF THE PRESIDENT'S
VETO OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
WELFARE, WILL HELP CONTINUE AND EXPAND THE MANY PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO
HELP OUR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND PERSONAL POTENTIAL. (Govt Assist)

MINNESOTA, TOO, HAS DONE MUCH TO INSPIRE AND COMPLIMENT THE
FEDERAL EFFORT.

AT A TIME WHEN OTHER STATES ARE CONSIDERING REORGANIZATIONS
WHICH REPRESENT A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM THE TRADITIONAL DELIVERY OF
SERVICES AND FUNDING, MINNESOTA HAS CREATED A DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION TO EMPHASIZE FURTHER ITS COMMITMENT TO THE HANDICAPPED.

TO FULFILL THIS COMMITMENT, THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE HAS RECENTLY
INCREASED THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.

BUT OUR WORK IS FAR FROM OVER. WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK
THROUGH OUR PROFESSIONS AND THROUGH ORGANIZED CONSUMER ADVOCACY

EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE WITH HANDICAPS. THESE INCLUDE THE *Consumer Advocacy groups*

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON THE HANDICAPPED AND THE

MINNESOTA STATE COUNCIL FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

*- MARC
- Min Assoc for crippled children & adults
+ others*

TOO OFTEN OUR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS HAVE BEEN THE FORGOTTEN

PEOPLE. FOR A LONG TIME OUR COUNTRY HAS DONE LITTLE TO AID

all too

HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS TO ACHIEVE THAT MEASURE OF SELF-FULFILLMENT

OF WHICH THEY ARE CAPABLE. THERE HAS BEEN A HIDDEN ASSUMPTION THAT

THE HANDICAPPED PERSON IS A TOTAL INVALID, THAT HE CANNOT HELP

HIMSELF, OR THAT HE MUST BE PROTECTED FROM SOCIETY OR VICE VERSA.

L THIS IS A COSTLY CONCEPTION BOTH IN TERMS OF THE HUMAN TOLL
IT TAKES ON HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND IN TERMS
OF THE FINANCIAL BURDENS IT UNNECESSARILY IMPOSES ON SOCIETY.

L THE HUMAN DIMENSION IS PARAMOUNT. ONE OF THE GREAT POLITICAL
PRINCIPLES OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE IS THAT EVERY PERSON SHALL HAVE
AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE WHATEVER DEGREE OF SELF-RELIANCE AND
SELF-FULFILLMENT HE OR SHE IS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING.

L THE COST OF REHABILITATION IS RETURNED MANY TIMES OVER IN
SAVINGS WHEN INDIVIDUALS WITH HANDICAPS ARE GIVEN THE PROPER
CARE, TRAINING, AND MOTIVATION TO LEAVE THE HOSPITALS AND
INSTITUTIONS AND BECOME, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, SELF-SUPPORTING
AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

L HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, IN PARTICULAR, IF GIVEN THE PROPER
EDUCATION AND EQUALITY OF TREATMENT IN ALL OTHER RESPECTS, CAN
AND DO BECOME PRODUCTIVE, SELF-SUPPORTING AND WELL-ADJUSTED
CITIZENS.

L THEIR OWN LIVES ARE BRIGHTER AND ALL OF SOCIETY BENEFITS
FROM THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.


(Public + Private)
L BUT WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER AS A PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE
OUR OBJECTIVES. L THE SYSTEM RELIES HEAVILY ON EXPERTS AND
CONCERNED CITIZENS SUCH AS YOURSELVES TO HELP SET PRIORITIES,
TO CONTINUALLY EXAMINE THE RESULTS, TO REALIGN THESE PRIORITIES
AS PROGRESS IS MADE, AND TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.




L THOMAS WOLFE ONCE SAID:

"TO EVERY MAN HIS CHANCE; TO EVERY MAN REGARDLESS OF
HIS BIRTH, HIS SHINING GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY; TO EVERY MAN,
THE RIGHT TO LIVE, TO WORK, TO BE HIMSELF AND TO BECOME
WHATEVER THING HIS MANHOOD AND HIS WISDOM CAN COMBINE TO
MAKE HIM -- THIS...IS THE PROMISE OF AMERICA."

THESE WORDS EXPRESS THE PROMISE DREAMED OF IN 1776 WHEN
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE HELD AS SELF EVIDENT "THAT ALL
MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR
WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE,
LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

THIS WAS THE PROMISE MADE WHEN OUR GOVERNMENT WAS CREATED
OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH
JUSTICE AND TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE OF ALL ITS CITIZENS.

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THROUGH
YOUR FUTURE EFFORTS YOU WILL BE MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO
HELPING OTHERS ACHIEVE AND EXERCISE THE RIGHTS ENJOYED AND
TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY MOST AMERICANS. 

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