

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
MINNESOTA CONFERENCE ON MENTAL RETARDATION

Bloomington, Minnesota

June 12, 1976

It is a pleasure for me to join you this morning at Minnesota's first Conference on Mental Retardation. The cause to which you are devoted is one that is close to my heart, and I feel both kinship with you and admiration for your work.

Not many years ago, if a family had a retarded child, it was faced with nearly insurmountable problems -- economically, socially, and psychologically.

There was limited knowledge about retarded persons.

There were few facilities for their care, and most were either exorbitantly priced or were large institutions in which the retarded were hidden away without receiving the personal care or individualized attention they so very much needed.

But now we are beginning to emerge from the dark ages. Your efforts here in Minnesota, and the efforts of others, have made self respect, significant self support, and meaningful participation in the life of our society possible for retarded persons.

As a result, we can celebrate today the remarkable gains which have been made for our retarded citizens.

Tremendous changes have taken place in the field of mental retardation over the last 25 years:

-- New treatment techniques and methodologies have been introduced.

-- Hundreds of state and federal laws have been enacted.

-- Thousands of new community programs have been established and many millions of public and private dollars have been expended to improve services to mentally retarded children, teenagers, and adults.

-- Planning for services has shifted from a program-centered approach to an individual-centered one.

But our happiness with the distance we have traveled thus far cannot blind us to the great work which still needs to be done. Many of the most vital transformations in the opportunities available to the retarded still lie before us. Conferences such as this can help direct our efforts toward helping mentally retarded people, who might otherwise have lived wasted lives, to develop into contributing members of society.

We are making progress by talking about and demonstrating to the people of this country what mentally retarded persons can do rather than what their limitations are.

Over 95 percent of those who are mentally retarded are only mildly or moderately handicapped. And, with assistance, each can and should have the opportunity to achieve whatever degree of self-reliance and self fulfillment he or she is capable of achieving.

A country as wealthy as ours cannot afford to allow the abilities and productive capacities of our mildly and moderately retarded to go unused.

We are changing the attitude of hopelessness which has prevailed in the past. This is an essential prerequisite for bringing the retarded more fully into our communities, and guaranteeing to them the chance to enhance and use their abilities to the fullest.

Minnesota, I'm proud to say, is a leader in "deinstitutionalization." In the last five years, the number of clients in large public residential facilities has decreased by an estimated 16 percent -- well above the national average.

For those few persons who can be served only in an institutional setting, our goal is to provide the best possible care in a more humane living environment. The \$16.8 million recently appropriated by the Minnesota legislature for capital improvements in our state hospitals will provide needed funds to make this a reality.

But we also need to provide the maximum opportunity for every mentally retarded person to live in a community setting of his own choosing. It costs more to institutionalize one retarded person for life than it does to provide residential training support for three people.

Associated costs are 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.

Public agencies, private business and voluntary organizations capable of helping retarded persons find competitive or sheltered employment need to intensify their efforts. The chance to work is crucial to becoming and remaining a full citizen.

It is a fact -- nearly two million handicapped persons are unemployed, although employable. And the costs, of this unemployment, both to the public and to the handicapped, are continually rising. Assistance for unemployed disabled persons and their dependents annually costs taxpayers nearly half a billion dollars.

I am pleased that regulations have finally been proposed which will implement legislation I introduced, by prohibiting discrimination against qualified handicapped individuals in any program of activity receiving Federal funds. Other legislation I have introduced which provides for demonstration projects of wage supplements for handicapped persons in sheltered workshops is being reviewed by the Senate Subcommittee on Handicapped as it conducts oversight hearings on the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Both of these measures will help handicapped individuals achieve the independence of which they are capable.

The transformation of public attitudes also would do much to eliminate the tragedy of preventable or readily remediable retardation.

The President's Committee on Mental Retardation recently estimated that in perhaps 85 to 90 percent of the cases not involving identifiable organic or physical causes, mental retardation is associated with conditions arising from the environment, poverty, racial and ethnic discrimination, and family stress.

In comparing a low income environment with a higher income one:

-- a child is 15 times more likely to be diagnosed as mentally retarded;

-- premature births, often resulting in physical and mental defects, are 75 percent more common; and

-- 45 percent of new mothers receive no medical care during pregnancy.

Many of the causes of mental retardation can be alleviated or prevented altogether simply by:

- prenatal and postnatal infant care;
- proper diet;
- early testing for metabolic disorders;
- removal of environmental hazards from lead paint and other toxic substances;
- assistance to low income parents in the early developmental training of their children in their own homes; and
- equitable individualized education for all children.

I cannot believe our country lacks the will or the funds to prevent every case of mental retardation which is preventable.

In the 25 percent of the cases of mental retardation which are attributed to biomedical causes, the President's Committee predicts that through the application of biomedical research, genetic counseling, and other techniques, it is possible to reduce the incidence of mental retardation from this source by 50 percent by the year 2000.

The human dimension of these facts is compelling. But for those who also need an economic justification, let it be pointed out that every dollar spent for prevention is worth \$1000 spent for warehousing or wasted lives.

The problems of mental retardation cannot be solved in Washington alone -- most can only be solved where the work actually is being done. But the federal government can provide the funds and supporting services necessary to make your efforts a success.

The Congress recently enacted legislation I have vigorously supported which provides some of the prerequisites for successful prevention and treatment of mental retardation:

- the extension and expansion of nutrition programs for women and children;
- the creation of diagnostic components in the various pre-school programs;
- and the provision of major new funds for health services aimed at preventing or ameliorating handicapping conditions.

Congress has also made considerable progress on providing incentives for a barrier-free environment, access to transportation and housing, and income security for handicapped persons.

In addition, the Education for all Handicapped Children Act and the Developmental Disabilities Amendments, including a Bill of Rights for the Handicapped, have been enacted. I regard these bills as landmark legislation.

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.

Over nine million Americans today suffer from developmental disabilities. We have developed new innovative educational techniques and we have gained some understanding of the nature of these handicaps. But we need to provide the facilities, specially trained teachers, and individualized programs to effectively help handicapped people.

Minnesota is one of the more progressive States. But it has fallen below its intended goals, because adequate federal funds have not been made available to help us serve all the handicapped persons we originally planned to serve.

The outlook for other states was equally bleak. But the enactment of the new legislation goes a long way in restoring the basic right to education for all handicapped children and assuring an improved quality of care and facilities.

The process does not stop with the passage of these laws. Too often the gap between new legislation and actual practice is wide.

We must continue to work together as the regulations are formulated to assure that our common goals as parents, teachers, administrators, providers, and concerned citizens are met.

Planning is important in this process. But we must not forget that planning is a means to an end rather than an end in itself. We must get the job done.

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 also 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 supplement the federal effort.

But our work is far from over.

The problems of mental retardation are not and cannot be the sole responsibility of any one department of government. A variety of professional disciplines are required to deliver the full range of health, social, educational, habitation and rehabilitation services needed by retarded persons. There is an important role for citizens, private enterprise, the voluntary agencies, and above all, the individual himself.

Planning for the services of today and tomorrow is necessarily shifting from a program-centered approach to a client-centered one, such as that which you have been reviewing during your meetings this week.

It has been said that in spite of all the ideas and technology in the world, it all comes down to shaping one individual at a time.

No longer is it sufficient that the criterion for success be whether or not the individual is being served. Rather, it is necessary to evaluate how much improvement the person has shown and what other services will help him develop to his fullest potential.

We need to work together as a partnership to achieve these objectives. The system relies heavily on experts and concerned citizens such as yourselves to help set priorities for the individual, 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 worth, 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 efforts you will be making a major contribution to helping others achieve and exercise the rights enjoyed and taken for granted by most Americans.

We can reduce the occurrence of mental retardation by at least half by the end of the century.

We can encourage the development of both attitudes and service systems that will enable retarded persons to live fuller lives in less restrictive settings.

We can assure mentally retarded persons full citizenship and legal rights.

We can develop more equitable, coordinated, efficient and effective use of public and private resources in all mental retardation programs.

We can achieve a greater understanding of and appreciation for handicapped persons -- for their gifts, abilities and experiences can greatly enrich our lives and lift our spirits.

We can acknowledge the worth of every human being and recognize his right to be different.

We can do these things and we must.

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Peter Sajevic (Sage-Vik)

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE ON MENTAL RETARDATION

'Minn Assoc for Retarded Citizens'

BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

Al. CK Rothmund - Exec Director

JUNE 12, 1976

Connie Jenkins - Coordinator of Conf

Cliff Poetz - Chr MARC Consumer
Task force

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING AT
MINNESOTA'S FIRST CONFERENCE ON MENTAL RETARDATION. *(The*
CAUSE TO WHICH YOU ARE DEVOTED IS ONE THAT IS CLOSE TO MY
HEART, AND I FEEL BOTH KINSHIP WITH YOU AND ADMIRATION FOR
YOUR WORK.

(NOT MANY YEARS AGO, IF A FAMILY HAD A RETARDED CHILD, IT
WAS FACED WITH NEARLY INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS -- ECONOMICALLY,
SOCIALLY, AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY. *and*

(THERE WAS LIMITED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RETARDED PERSONS.

(THERE WERE FEW FACILITIES FOR THEIR CARE, AND MOST WERE
EITHER EXORBITANTLY PRICED OR WERE LARGE INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH
THE RETARDED WERE HIDDEN AWAY WITHOUT RECEIVING THE PERSONAL
CARE OR INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION THEY SO VERY MUCH NEEDED.

L BUT NOW WE ARE BEGINNING TO EMERGE FROM THE DARK AGES.

L OUR EFFORTS HERE IN MINNESOTA, AND THE EFFORTS OF OTHERS,

HAVE MADE SELF RESPECT, SIGNIFICANT SELF SUPPORT, AND MEANINGFUL

PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF OUR SOCIETY POSSIBLE FOR RETARDED

PERSONS.

L AS A RESULT, WE CAN CELEBRATE TODAY THE REMARKABLE GAINS
WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE FOR OUR RETARDED CITIZENS.

L TREMENDOUS CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL
RETARDATION OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS:

L-- NEW TREATMENT TECHNIQUES AND METHODOLOGIES HAVE BEEN
INTRODUCED.

L-- HUNDREDS OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS HAVE BEEN ENACTED.

-- THOUSANDS OF NEW COMMUNITY PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED
AND MANY MILLIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DOLLARS HAVE BEEN EXPENDED
TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN, TEENAGERS,
AND ADULTS.

L-- PLANNING FOR SERVICES HAS SHIFTED FROM A PROGRAM-CENTERED
APPROACH TO AN INDIVIDUAL-CENTERED ONE.

L BUT OUR HAPPINESS WITH THE DISTANCE WE HAVE TRAVELED THUS
FAR CANNOT BLIND US TO THE GREAT WORK WHICH STILL NEEDS TO BE
DONE. L MANY OF THE MOST VITAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE TO THE RETARDED STILL LIE BEFORE US. L CONFERENCES SUCH

AS THIS CAN HELP DIRECT OUR EFFORTS TOWARD HELPING MENTALLY
RETARDED PEOPLE, WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE LIVED WASTED LIVES,
help sustaining and
TO DEVELOP INTO CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

L WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS BY TALKING ABOUT AND DEMONSTRATING
~~TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY~~ WHAT MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS
CAN DO RATHER THAN WHAT THEIR LIMITATIONS ARE.

OVER 95 PERCENT OF THOSE WHO ARE MENTALLY RETARDED ARE ONLY
MILDLY OR MODERATELY HANDICAPPED. AND, WITH ASSISTANCE, EACH *person*
CAN AND SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE WHATEVER DEGREE
OF SELF-RELIANCE AND SELF FULFILLMENT HE OR SHE IS CAPABLE OF
ACHIEVING. *This must be ~~the~~ the standard*

2 A COUNTRY AS WEALTHY AS OURS CANNOT AFFORD TO ALLOW THE
ABILITIES AND PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES OF OUR MILDLY AND MODERATELY
RETARDED TO GO UNUSED.

h WE ARE CHANGING THE ATTITUDE OF HOPELESSNESS WHICH HAS
PREVAILED IN THE PAST.

THIS IS A ~~ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR~~ *So basic if we are to bring* THE RETARDED

MORE FULLY INTO OUR COMMUNITIES, AND GUARANTEE TO THEM THE

CHANCE TO *develop* ~~ENJOY~~ AND USE THEIR ABILITIES TO THE FULLEST.

MINNESOTA, I'M PROUD TO SAY, IS A LEADER IN "DEINSTITUTIONAL-

IZATION." IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF *Retarded* ~~CHILDREN~~ IN

LARGE PUBLIC *institutional* ~~REHABILITATION~~ FACILITIES HAS DECREASED BY AN ESTIMATED

16 PERCENT --WELL ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

But FOR THOSE ~~WHICH~~ PERSONS WHO CAN BE SERVED ONLY IN AN

INSTITUTIONAL SETTING, OUR GOAL *must be to* ~~IS TO~~ PROVIDE THE BEST

POSSIBLE CARE IN A MORE HUMANE LIVING ENVIRONMENT. THE

\$16.8 MILLION RECENTLY APPROPRIATED BY THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR STATE HOSPITALS WILL PROVIDE

help NEEDED FUNDS TO MAKE THIS A REALITY.

BUT WE ALSO NEED TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR

EVERY MENTALLY RETARDED PERSON TO LIVE IN A COMMUNITY SETTING

OF HIS OWN CHOOSING. IT COSTS MORE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE ONE

RETARDED PERSON FOR LIFE THAN IT DOES TO PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL

TRAINING SUPPORT FOR THREE PEOPLE.

ASSOCIATED COSTS ARE 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.

PUBLIC AGENCIES, PRIVATE BUSINESS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

CAPABLE OF HELPING RETARDED PERSONS FIND COMPETITIVE OR SHELTERED

EMPLOYMENT NEED TO INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS.

So much more can be and must be done.

We Know That

The CHANCE TO WORK IS CRUCIAL TO BECOMING AND REMAINING

A FULL CITIZEN.

See this IT IS A FACT -- NEARLY TWO MILLION HANDICAPPED PERSONS

ARE UNEMPLOYED, ALTHOUGH EMPLOYABLE! AND THE COSTS, OF

THIS UNEMPLOYMENT, BOTH TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE HANDICAPPED,

ARE CONTINUALLY RISING, ASSISTANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED DISABLED

PERSONS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS ~~ANNUALLY~~ COSTS TAXPAYERS NEARLY

HALF A BILLION DOLLARS per year.

I AM PLEASED THAT REGULATIONS HAVE FINALLY BEEN PROPOSED

WHICH WILL IMPLEMENT LEGISLATION I INTRODUCED, ^{+ Passed} ~~AND~~ PROHIBITING

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST QUALIFIED HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS IN

ANY PROGRAM OF ACTIVITY RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDS.

OTHER LEGISLATION I HAVE INTRODUCED ~~WHICH~~ PROVIDES FOR
DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS OF WAGE SUPPLEMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED

PERSONS IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS IS BEING REVIEWED BY THE SENATE

Committee on the Handicapped
~~SUBCOMMITTEE ON HANDICAPPED~~ AS IT CONDUCTS OVERSIGHT HEARINGS ON

THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.

L BOTH OF THESE MEASURES WILL HELP HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS
ACHIEVE THE INDEPENDENCE OF WHICH THEY ARE CAPABLE.

⊗ L THE TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES ALSO WOULD DO MUCH
TO ELIMINATE THE TRAGEDY OF PREVENTABLE OR READILY REMEDIABLE

RETARDATION. *and we here in this conference
can lead the way on this.*

⊗ L THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION RECENTLY
ESTIMATED THAT IN PERHAPS 85 TO 90 PERCENT OF THE CASES NOT

INVOLVING IDENTIFIABLE ORGANIC OR PHYSICAL CAUSES,

MENTAL RETARDATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH CONDITIONS ARISING FROM THE
ENVIRONMENT, POVERTY, RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION, AND
FAMILY STRESS.

L IN COMPARING A LOW INCOME ENVIRONMENT WITH A HIGHER INCOME
environment - ~~Low income~~ We find that -

L -- ~~Low income~~ A CHILD IS 15 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE DIAGNOSED AS
MENTALLY RETARDED;

L -- PREMATURE BIRTHS, OFTEN RESULTING IN PHYSICAL AND MENTAL
DEFECTS, ARE 75 PERCENT MORE COMMON; AND

L- 45 PERCENT OF NEW MOTHERS RECEIVE NO MEDICAL CARE DURING
PREGNANCY.

~~most~~ L and we now know that -
MANY OF THE ^{SE} CAUSES OF MENTAL RETARDATION CAN BE ALLEVIATED

OR PREVENTED ALTOGETHER SIMPLY BY;

-- PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL INFANT CARE;

-- PROPER DIET; - WIC

L-- EARLY TESTING FOR METABOLIC DISORDERS;

L-- REMOVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS FROM LEAD PAINT AND

OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES;

L-- ASSISTANCE TO LOW INCOME PARENTS IN THE EARLY DEVELOPMENTAL
TRAINING OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THEIR OWN HOMES; AND

L-- EQUITABLE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN.

I CANNOT BELIEVE OUR COUNTRY LACKS THE WILL OR THE ^{means} ~~WILL~~ TO

PREVENT EVERY CASE OF MENTAL RETARDATION WHICH IS PREVENTABLE.

and IN THE 25 PERCENT OF THE CASES OF MENTAL RETARDATION WHICH

ARE ATTRIBUTED TO BIOMEDICAL CAUSES, THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

PREDICTS THAT THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH,

(Research)

GENETIC COUNSELING, AND OTHER TECHNIQUES, IT IS POSSIBLE TO
REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF MENTAL RETARDATION FROM THIS SOURCE
BY 50 PERCENT BY THE YEAR 2000.

THE "HUMAN DIMENSION" OF THESE FACTS IS COMPELLING. BUT FOR
THOSE WHO ALSO NEED AN ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION, LET IT BE POINTED
OUT THAT EVERY DOLLAR SPENT FOR PREVENTION IS WORTH \$1000 SPENT
FOR WAREHOUSING OR WASTED LIVES.

But,

THE PROBLEMS OF MENTAL RETARDATION CANNOT BE SOLVED IN
WASHINGTON ALONE -- MOST CAN ONLY BE SOLVED WHERE THE WORK
ACTUALLY IS BEING DONE. BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN
PROVIDE THE FUNDS AND SUPPORTING SERVICES NECESSARY TO
MAKE YOUR EFFORTS A SUCCESS.

help

L THE CONGRESS RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION I HAVE VIGOROUSLY
SUPPORTED WHICH PROVIDES SOME OF THE ~~PREREQUISITE FOR~~ *Standards for*

SUCCESSFUL PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION: *such as,*

L-- THE EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR
WOMEN AND CHILDREN; *(So important)*

L-- THE CREATION OF DIAGNOSTIC ~~IMPORTANCE~~ *elaboration* IN THE VARIOUS
PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS;

L-- AND THE PROVISION OF MAJOR NEW FUNDS FOR HEALTH SERVICES
AIMED AT PREVENTING OR AMELIORATING HANDICAPPING CONDITIONS,

L CONGRESS HAS ALSO MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ON PROVIDING

INCENTIVES FOR A BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENT, ACCESS TO

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING, AND INCOME SECURITY FOR HANDICAPPED

PERSONS.

L IN ADDITION, THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
ACT AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AMENDMENTS, INCLUDING
A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, HAVE BEEN ENACTED.
d REGARD THESE BILLS AS LANDMARK LEGISLATION.

Jan
2
Senators
have
Supported
these.

L 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. L ALMOST THREE MILLION CHILDREN, WHILE IN SCHOOL,
RECEIVE NONE OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES THEY REQUIRE IN ORDER TO
MAKE EDUCATION A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE.

L OVER NINE MILLION AMERICANS TODAY SUFFER FROM DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES. L WE HAVE DEVELOPED NEW ~~INNOVATIVE~~ EDUCATIONAL
TECHNIQUES AND WE HAVE GAINED SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE
OF THESE HANDICAPS.

L BUT WE NEED TO PROVIDE THE FACILITIES, SPECIALLY TRAINED TEACHERS,
AND INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMS TO EFFECTIVELY HELP HANDICAPPED PEOPLE,

L MINNESOTA IS ONE OF THE MORE PROGRESSIVE STATES, L BUT

IT HAS FALLEN BELOW ITS INTENDED GOALS, BECAUSE ADEQUATE ~~REVENUE~~

FUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO HELP US SERVE ALL THE

HANDICAPPED PERSONS WE ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO SERVE.

L THE OUTLOOK FOR OTHER STATES WAS EQUALLY BLEAK, L BUT THE

ENACTMENT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION GOES A LONG WAY IN RESTORING

THE BASIC RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND

ASSURING AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF CARE AND FACILITIES.

But THE PROCESS DOES NOT STOP WITH THE PASSAGE OF THESE LAWS.

L TOO OFTEN THE GAP BETWEEN NEW LEGISLATION AND ACTUAL PRACTICE

IS WIDE.

These programs must have the funds
needed to fulfill their purpose and.

L WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS THE REGULATIONS

ARE FORMULATED TO ASSURE THAT OUR COMMON GOALS AS PARENTS, *Grandparents*

TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, PROVIDERS, AND CONCERNED CITIZENS

ARE MET.

L PLANNING IS IMPORTANT IN THIS PROCESS. BUT WE MUST NOT

FORGET THAT PLANNING IS A MEANS TO AN END RATHER THAN AN END

IN ITSELF. WE MUST GET THE JOB DONE.

the 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 ALSO HELP CONTINUE AND EXPAND

THE MANY PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO HELP OUR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS

ACHIEVE THEIR FULL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL POTENTIAL.

MINNESOTA, ~~has~~ HAS DONE MUCH TO INSPIRE AND SUPPLEMENT
THE FEDERAL EFFORT.

BUT OUR WORK IS FAR FROM OVER.

THE PROBLEMS OF MENTAL RETARDATION ARE NOT AND CANNOT BE THE
one level on
SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY ONE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT A VARIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES ^{IS} ~~ARE~~ REQUIRED TO DELIVER THE FULL RANGE
OF HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, HABITATION AND REHABILITATION
SERVICES NEEDED BY RETARDED PERSONS *and -* THERE IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE
FOR CITIZENS, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND ABOVE
ALL, THE INDIVIDUAL HIMSELF.

PLANNING FOR THE SERVICES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW IS NECESSARILY
SHIFTING FROM A PROGRAM-CENTERED APPROACH TO A CLIENT-CENTERED ONE,
SUCH AS THAT WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN REVIEWING DURING YOUR MEETINGS
THIS WEEK. *(Good)*

L IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IN SPITE OF ALL THE IDEAS AND
TECHNOLOGY IN THE WORLD, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO SHAPING ONE
INDIVIDUAL AT A TIME.

L NO LONGER IS IT SUFFICIENT THAT THE CRITERION FOR SUCCESS
BE WHETHER OR NOT THE INDIVIDUAL IS BEING SERVED. RATHER, IT
IS NECESSARY TO EVALUATE HOW MUCH IMPROVEMENT THE PERSON HAS
SHOWN AND WHAT OTHER SERVICES WILL HELP HIM DEVELOP TO HIS
FULLEST POTENTIAL.

L WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER AS A PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE
THESE OBJECTIVES. THE SYSTEM RELIES HEAVILY ON EXPERTS AND
CONCERNED CITIZENS SUCH AS YOURSELVES TO HELP SET PRIORITIES
FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, 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 WORTH, 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.~~

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

L WE CAN REDUCE THE OCCURRENCE OF MENTAL RETARDATION BY AT
LEAST HALF BY THE END OF THE CENTURY.

L WE CAN ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH ATTITUDES AND
SERVICE SYSTEMS THAT WILL ENABLE RETARDED PERSONS TO LIVE FULLER
LIVES IN LESS RESTRICTIVE SETTINGS.

L WE CAN ASSURE MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS FULL CITIZENSHIP
AND LEGAL RIGHTS.

WE CAN DEVELOP MORE EQUITABLE, COORDINATED, EFFICIENT AND
EFFECTIVE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESOURCES IN ALL MENTAL
RETARDATION PROGRAMS.

L WE CAN ACHIEVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF AND APPRECIATION
FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS -- THEIR GIFTS, ABILITIES AND
EXPERIENCES CAN GREATLY ENRICH OUR LIVES AND LIFT OUR SPIRITS,

L WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORTH OF EVERY HUMAN BEING AND
RECOGNIZE HIS RIGHT TO BE DIFFERENT.

L WE CAN DO THESE THINGS AND WE MUST.



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