

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE FOR WEEK OF MAY 13, 1964  
FOR BROADCAST WEEK OF MAY 17, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen. . .

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, reporting to you from my office on  
Capitol Hill, in Washington. . .

Today I wish to report ~~that~~ that approximately one quarter of a million  
dollars has just been granted to the University of Minnesota for the purpose  
of training special teachers for handicapped children. The significance of  
these grants to our state university can be seen if we look at the problem the  
nation is trying to meet.

It is estimated ~~that~~ <sup>school-age</sup> conservatively, that 6 million/children in the United  
States need special education. This is approximately 12% of all of the school  
age children enrolled at the present time. Those who need special education

have a variety of handicaps. They include children who are blind, or partly blind, the deaf and hard of hearing, those with speech impairments, the crippled, the emotionally disturbed, or the socially maladjusted, the mentally retarded, and children with special health problems.

Most of these children can be educated as well as any others. They can be trained for economically productive and useful lives, but only if we have teachers who have been trained in the special techniques of teaching them. One may be a very good teacher of a normal child and not know how to cope at all with the problems of a handicapped one.

We have a great shortage of these specially trained teachers. We need 200 thousand of them. We have only about 60 thousand. What is worse, at our recent rate of production, we would be serving only about one third of our handicapped children by 1968.

This is hardly a tolerable situation for the United States. In 1963, *decided to do something about it. It* the Congress passed an act to provide for the construction of mental retardation facilities, and community mental health centers. *also* ~~This was landmark legislation.~~ ~~It provided for more than construction of facilities.~~ It provided for research *then* into the causes and cures of ~~of~~ the various handicapping conditions. *Then* *Congress* *then* Important as this is however, ~~it was~~ recognized that ~~it~~ would not be

effective as long as there is a persistent and nationwide shortage of qualified teachers to instruct the handicapped. Therefore the bill provided \$11.5 million for the first year, and increasing amounts in succeeding years to provide for fellowships and training grants to those preparing ~~to teach the handicapped~~

*with* these children of special needs. *These grants were to be given to colleges and Universities qualified to give the special instruction.*

This legislation was close to the heart of our late President Kennedy.

It was perhaps the last piece of major legislation he was privileged to sign.

At the time of signing it he remarked that a nation as rich in human and material resources as ours could not afford to neglect these children. As he said, these children "need no longer be alien to our affections or beyond the help of our communities."

Up until now, only the few parents who could afford expensive and often distant private facilities could get help for their children. We are on the way now to providing help to all communities and to all children who need it.

We can take pride in Minnesota that our state university is equipped to give this special teacher training and has been found worthy of awards to help it increase greatly the number of students *preparing* ~~it can produce~~ to meet the teacher shortage in special fields. *The Univ. of Minnesota* It has received grants in the fields of Mental Retardation, Visually Handicapped, Speech Correction, The Seriously Emotionally

Disturbed, and the Crippled or Other Health Impaired children.

Many institutions across the nation <sup>step up from</sup> ~~have~~ <sup>of the long-armed</sup> ~~also~~ been given grants to <sup>help</sup> ~~stimulate the production of teachers in these desperately needed areas.~~ <sup>But</sup> ~~Few~~  
~~however~~ <sup>our</sup> have qualified in as many different areas as <sup>have been in so</sup> ~~has~~ the University of  
Minnesota. Once again we are able, as we are <sup>to</sup> ~~in many~~ other ways, not only  
to help the citizens of <sup>Minnesota</sup> ~~our own state,~~ but contribute to the welfare and the  
enrichment of <sup>our</sup> ~~the nation~~ as a whole. And as usual, we are not only proud to,  
~~we are pleased to do so.~~

Thank you.



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