

000446

REMARKS
OF
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
ECONOMICS LABORATORY, INC.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER 30, 1970

Economics Laboratory is a great American multinational corporation --- wealthy, powerful --- with a network of corporate interest reaching around the world.

If it were no more than the payroll and industry that this great corporation gives to the people of Minnesota, we would be grateful to have their headquarters located in our state.

However, in the tradition of great American enterprises, they have shown heart --- they have demonstrated a recognition of responsibility to the greater community --- they pay a social dividend to the Minnesota community.

000447

I cannot testify to all the good works of Economics Laboratory but I am here to speak of something close to my own heart --- the training and employment of the mentally retarded.

To the men and women of Economics Laboratory --- both management and labor --- I offer my congratulations, my personal thanks and appreciation. Their successful efforts to train and place the mentally retarded in food service jobs is more than a worthy humanitarian gesture. It is a pioneering breakthrough in our confrontation with a serious national problem.

There are in the country today about 1,000,000 ~~in~~ ^{mentally} ~~employed~~ ^{potential - over beyond the so called unemployed} workers capable and willing to work. Mental retardation has kept them out of our labor force. This exclusion has deprived our economy of an important resource --- the manpower that these citizens offer to do jobs that need to be done.

Maintaining a retarded person in a state institution in Minnesota for 40 years costs approximately \$56,000. That same individual trained and employed can earn a minimum of \$120,000 over a 40 year period.

- Handicapped
Capital
Costs

↳ It costs only some \$900 to train a young handicapped adult. Isn't that a fantastic return on investment --- \$900 to train for a productive life to produce \$180,000 in savings in costs and in the production of income?

120,000
56

176,000

↳ The message that comes home time after time is that --- mentally retarded employees have a proven record of reliability, punctuality and less absenteeism. Our mentally handicapped obtain a sense of pride and achievement in the very jobs that other employees shun.

↳ The decade of the 1960s was a breakthrough in our con-
frontation of this problem ---

Kennedy + Mrs H

↳ In a sense the nation discovered the problem of mental retardation that many of us had been addressing ourselves to for many, many years.

↳ During that period the United States took some giant steps down a long, long road to deal with this national problem.

↳ The Community Mental Health Centers Act of 1965 and the Mental Health Amendment of 1967 were among these steps to provide special teacher training as well as providing community centers.

↳ However, the sad fact today is that 5 out of 6 of our mentally retarded are never reached by any kind of service designed to meet their special needs. That means that 5 million of the estimated 6 million mentally retarded in the country are excluded from constructive participation in our society.

↳ There is much that we have done.

Churchill Story

There is far more that we must do.

Short sighted ^{so called "economy"} ~~to~~ cuts in federal appropriations and vetoes of social legislation in the name of economy and fighting inflation are false, false, false.

Remember a \$900 investment in training will produce happy and productive lives --- and an economic plus for our society.

This is a political year and I am campaigning for public office.

My opponent in this campaign has come out against legislation for special education for the mentally retarded --- against the Elementary and Secondary Education Acts of 1965 and 1966 which authorized funding for education programs for the handicapped and mentally retarded.

Again in 1969, my opponent voted to sustain a presidential veto which provided \$105 million for programs to educate the handicapped --- over a half million dollars for the handicapped in Minnesota.

We all have limits. But what is important in life is not what a person cannot do but what he can do.

We have to help people do what they can do.

That is what Economics Laboratory has done.

That is what we must all do.

#



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org