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REMARKS BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEDICATION DINNER

FOR

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER AND HOSPITAL

SHERATON-RITZ HOTEL

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

DECEMBER 14, 1972

THIS DINNER RIGHTLY CELEBRATES A TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT
IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT RESPECTS.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER IS THE PRODUCT OF A DEEP PUBLIC
COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN--
A COMMITMENT REFLECTED IN A FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN INVOLVING SOME
1,000 VOLUNTEERS, AND IN CITIZEN CONTRIBUTIONS, AND PRIVATE
DONATIONS AND PLEDGES, TOTALLING OVER \$3,500,000.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF
COOPERATIVE PLANNING WITHIN A METROPOLITAN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
SYSTEM TO CONTROL COSTS AND ASSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH
SERVICES. BY OPERATING AS THE PEDIATRIC "CORE" OF THE FIVE-
HOSPITAL COMPLEX MAKING UP THE MINNEAPOLIS MEDICAL CENTER AND
BY SHARING BASIC AS WELL AS HIGHLY SPECIALIZED FACILITIES IN
THESE UNITS, THE CENTER WILL BE ASSURED ADEQUATE OCCUPANCY
CAPACITY AND WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD DOWN CAPITAL AND OPERATING
COSTS.

AND BY THIS DECISIVE PRIVATE INITIATIVE, CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER CAN BE A MODEL FOR THE NATION OF WHAT INNOVATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN ARE MEANT TO BE AND CAN BE. DR. ARNOLD S. ANDERSON, YOUR PRESIDENT AND A GOOD FRIEND WHOSE WISE COUNSEL I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO RECEIVE OVER THE YEARS, HAS WELL STATED THE CRUCIAL NEED TO MAKE A 100-PER CENT EFFORT IN PROVIDING HEALTH SERVICES THAT ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN. THIS IS ESSENTIAL, IF THERE IS TO BE ANY PROGRESS IN A COMMUNITY'S EFFORT TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES AND IF WE ARE TO KEEP PACE WITH MODERN KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THIS FIELD.

I AM DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE CHILD HEALTH CARE SPECIALTIES AND RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THIS CENTER.

BUT I AM ESPECIALLY GRATIFIED THAT THIS VOLUNTARY, NON-PROFIT
HOSPITAL WILL BE OPERATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
ENTIRE COMMUNITY, BECOMING A ONE-STOP HEALTH FACILITY THAT
WILL NOT REFUSE MEDICAL CARE TO ANY CHILD WHO NEEDS IT,

ONLY THROUGH SUCH CENTRALIZED ~~AND INNOVATIVE~~ ~~COMPREHENSIVE~~
HEALTH CARE SERVICES CAN A COMMUNITY MAINTAIN THE VITAL RESOURCE
OF PRACTICING PEDIATRICIANS AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS
PERSONNEL -- AND THIS IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO MINNEAPOLIS,
WHERE IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY 1980 THE CHILD POPULATION WILL HAVE
DOUBLED OVER TWO DECADES.

ONLY THROUGH A CENTER THAT MOVES OUT BOLDLY IN LAUNCHING
MAJOR NEW RESEARCH AND SERVICE PROGRAMS CAN WE BEGIN TO MAKE
PROGRESS IN THE DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND PREVENTION OF
CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES AND CONDITIONS THAT HAVE CRIPPLED THE LIVES OF
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN PREVIOUS GENERATIONS. I AM PARTICULARLY
IMPRESSED WITH SUCH CENTER SERVICES AS:

-- A PEDIATRIC DENTAL CLINIC -- THE ONLY SUCH FACILITY IN
THE UPPER MIDWEST;

-- A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF SERVICES AT BIRTH AND FOR
CRITICAL CARE OF NEWBORN INFANTS;

-- A VERY IMPORTANT MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM DESIGNED TO
ESTABLISH A POSITIVE AND SENSITIVE ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT
THE ENTIRE HOSPITAL;

- 5 -

-- FAMILY CARE UNITS PROVIDING "LIVE-IN" ACCOMMODATIONS FOR

THE PARENTS OF CHILD PATIENTS;

-- CLINICAL TRAINING FOR THE STUDENTS OF NEARBY

SCHOOLS OF NURSING;

-- AND A RANGE OF SERVICES FROM PHYSICAL EXAMS TO THE

TREATMENT OF BURNS AND POISONING, AND THE PROVISION OF

PSYCHIATRIC COUNSELLING AND RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL AND LEARNING

PROBLEMS.

However, of special importance is the fact that Children's Health Center has taken seriously its responsibilities to the inner city where it is located. This concern was already foreshadowed in the Walk-In Counselling Center and Teen-Age Medical Service run almost entirely by professional staff volunteering their services.

THESE PROGRAMS HAVE DIRECTLY CONFRONTED THE CRITICAL AND EXTENSIVE
PROBELMS AMONG OUR YOUTH OF DRUG ABUSE, UNWANTED PREGNANCIES,
AND VENEREAL DISEASE, AS WELL AS A FUNDAMENTAL NEED FOR
DOWN-TO-EARTH COMMUNICATION.

BEYOND THIS, HOWEVER, AND EVEN BEYOND A COMMITMENT TO
PROVIDING NEEDED CHILD HEALTH CARE, IRRESPECTIVE OF A PARENT'S
ABILITY TO PAY, THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER INTENDS TO TAKE ITS
PART IN COMBATTING THE POVERTY OF THE MODEL CITY AREA,
BY TRAINING AND EMPLOYING UP TO ONE-HALF OF ITS STAFF FROM
THAT AREA.

IT IS MY PROFOUND HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WILL EXPRESS A SIMILAR FIRM COMMITMENT TO MEETING THE PERVASIVE AND CRITICAL CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF AMERICA, THAT ARE ALL TOO FREQUENTLY THE HEART-RENDING REALITY OF POVERTY,

AS ONE WHO PUSHED THROUGH LEGISLATION SOME FIFTEEN YEARS AGO TO CREATE THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, I AM DETERMINED THAT THIS COMMITMENT NOW BE CARRIED THROUGH,

AS ONE WHO PLAYED A DIRECT ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEADSTART PROGRAM, I AM COMMITTED TO A RENEWED LEGISLATIVE EFFORT TO OVERRIDE PAST PRESIDENTIAL VETOES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ACROSS AMERICA.

WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE OVER SIX MILLION CHILDREN WHO NEED THESE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE, DAILY NUTRITIOUS MEALS, AND INDIVIDUAL GUIDANCE SERVICES. THEY SIMPLY MUST NOT BE DENIED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WHEN A MAJOR PART OF A CHILD'S INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT OCCURS IN HIS OR HER EARLIEST YEARS.

AND AS PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH SEVERAL YEARS AGO PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSAL CHILD DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM, I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME FOR CONGRESS TO ENACT THE CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH ACT, PASSED BY THE SENATE LAST YEAR. I WILL URGE THE EARLY REINTRODUCTION OF THIS LEGISLATION, WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE \$50 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANTS OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD FOR PROJECTS PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE -- PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND CORRECTION -- FOR CHILDREN, INCLUDING MAJOR PILOT PROJECTS FOCUSED ON DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN, ALMOST

THREE-FOURTHS OF WHOM HAVE NEVER SEEN A DENTIST.

MOREOVER, I BELIEVE THE TIME IS LONG OVERDUE FOR SQUARELY CONFRONTING THE EXTENSIVE PROBLEM OF INADEQUATE NUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN ACROSS AMERICA -- A CONDITION THAT IS NOT LIMITED TO THE CHILDREN OF LOWER-INCOME FAMILIES. I INTEND TO RENEW WORK ON THE UNIVERSAL CHILD NUTRITION AND NUTRITION EDUCATION ACT WHICH I INTRODUCED IN THE LAST CONGRESS.

I WAS GRATIFIED BY SUBSEQUENT FAVORABLE ACTION TAKEN ON MY AMENDMENTS TO EXPAND AND INCREASE FUNDING FOR CHILD FEEDING PROGRAMS, INCLUDING A NEW EMPHASIS ON THE NUTRITION NEEDS OF MOTHERS AND INFANTS. BUT IT HAS BEEN CLEAR THAT CONGRESS MUST WAGE AN UNCEASING BATTLE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ASSURE THAT THE INTENT OF THE LAW IN THIS AREA IS, IN FACT, CARRIED OUT.

THE SAME HAS BEEN TRUE WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMS UNDER THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, WHERE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CALLED FOR CUTBACKS IN PROGRAMS AND SEVERE REDUCTIONS IN TRAINING GRANTS. YET THERE IS SERIOUS NEED RIGHT NOW FOR MORE PERSONNEL PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED IN PERINATAL AND NEONATAL CARE, AS WELL AS MENTAL RETARDATION. I FIND IT UNCONSCIONABLE THAT FEDERAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE PROPOSED IN THIS CRITICAL AREA, ON TOP OF EARLIER ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS TO CUT BACK MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS ON CHILDHOOD DISEASES.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT WILL BE A MAJOR SOCIAL POLICY ISSUE IN THE CURRENT DECADE. I INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SEE TO IT THAT THIS IS, IN FACT, THE CASE, AND THAT THE ISSUE IS QUICKLY SETTLED IN FAVOR

OF THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA. DURING MY TERM AS VICE PRESIDENT, THE ADMINISTRATION SECURED THE ENACTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CHILD HEALTH CARE SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID, YET THESE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY DELAYED. AND IN THE LAST CONGRESS, I WAS ONE OF THOSE SENATORS WHO INSISTED THAT UNDER PENDING SO-CALLED "WELFARE REFORM" LEGISLATION, THE EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, NUTRITIONAL, AND OTHER NEEDS OF CHILDREN MUST BE AS IMPORTANT IN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AS ENABLING PARENTS TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT.

HOWEVER, IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT CONGRESS INTENDS TO MOVE FORWARD IN GIVING HIGHER VISIBILITY TO MAJOR CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN AMERICA. IT ENACTED A MAJOR PROGRAM OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL, FOCUSED ON TUBERCULOSIS, MEASLES, AND VENEREAL DISEASE.

IT PASSED THE NATIONAL SICKLE CELL ANEMIA ACT TO PROMOTE INTENSIVE RESEARCH ON THIS CRIPPLING DISEASE, AND TO ESTABLISH VOLUNTARY SCREENING AND COUNSELLING PROGRAMS, AND THE SENATE PASSED LEGISLATION TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO RESEARCH ON THE CAUSE AND CURE OF SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME, AND TO EXPAND PROGRAMS FOR THE PREVENTION OF LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING, AND, IN ADDITION TO THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF CURRENT RESEARCH ON MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, WORK WAS BEGUN ON FURTHER BILLS TO ASSIST IN THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE, AND TO PROMOTE FURTHER SERVICES TO ADDRESS MENTAL RETARDATION AND OTHER PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABILITIES BORNE BY MILLIONS OF CHILDREN.

THESE ARE BUT A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT I SEE AS A DEFINITE TREND TOWARD ESTABLISHING THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN AS A HIGH PRIORITY IN NATIONAL POLICY AND PROGRAMS.

BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE WORK THAT MUST BE DONE IF THIS GOAL IS TO BE ACHIEVED. IT IS PROFOUNDLY WRONG THAT IN A NATION WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING AND WHICH IS SUPPOSEDLY DEVOTED TO THE WELFARE OF ITS CHILDREN --

-- ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE LOW-INCOME PRESCHOOL CHILDREN ARE ANEMIC;

-- NEARLY HALF A MILLION CHILDREN HAVE CEREBRAL PALSY;

-- HALF A MILLION SUFFER FROM EPILEPSY;

-- SEVERAL MILLION ARE MENTALLY RETARDED;

-- AND MORE THAN TWO AND A HALF MILLION CHILDREN HAVE ORTHOPEDIC HANDICAPS.

- 14 -

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT A TOTAL NATIONAL EFFORT MUST BE LAUNCHED TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS. IN ADDRESSES ACROSS THE NATION, I HAVE OUTLINED A PROGRAM OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE THAT MUST BE ESTABLISHED IF THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO HEALTH IS TO BE GUARANTEED.

BASICALLY, THIS WOULD BE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF PREPAID MEDICAL CARE UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL PREGNANT WOMEN AND FOR CHILDREN IN THEIR EARLIEST YEARS. IT WOULD COVER ALL PHYSICIAN SERVICES AND HOSPITAL AND LABORATORY COSTS. BUT OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, IT WOULD ALSO BE DIRECTED AT THE CHILD'S HOME SITUATION, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF HOME HEALTH AND OUTPATIENT COUNSELLING SERVICES. TREATMENT AND CARE WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE CHILDREN UNDER SIX WHOSE HEALTH HAS BEEN THREATENED OR SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED BY MAJOR TRAUMA OR CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS.

AND, TO ADDRESS THE CRITICAL SITUATION IN AMERICA WHERE SEVERAL MILLION CHILDREN ARE ISOLATED FROM SOCIETY BECAUSE OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND OTHER PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HANDICAPS, THIS PROGRAM WOULD PROVIDE FOR EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF THESE HEALTH CARE NEEDS THROUGH ~~THE~~ PERIODIC SCREENING AND COMPLETE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES, FOLLOWED BY INDIVIDUAL CARE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTENSIVE APPROACH TO GUARANTEEING CHILD HEALTH CAN AND MUST BE LAUNCHED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. AND I INTEND TO WORK JOINTLY WITH MY SENATE COLLEAGUES TO SEE TO IT THAT THIS APPROACH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, WHOSE ENACTMENT MUST HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN THE NEXT CONGRESS.

- 16 -

IN PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2, 1971, AS CHILD HEALTH DAY,

PRESIDENT NIXON SAID:

"THIS NATION'S CHILDREN REPRESENT OUR GREATEST
RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR GREATEST HOPE. WE ALL SHARE
A CONTINUOUS OBLIGATION TO DO ALL WE CAN TO SAFEGUARD
AND PROMOTE THEIR HEALTH AND WELL BEING."

I NOW CALL UPON THE PRESIDENT TO WORK WITH CONGRESS IN
TRANSLATING THESE WORDS INTO ACTION TO FULFILL THIS OBLIGATION.
MILLIONS OF AMERICAN PARENTS ASK ONLY THAT THEIR CHILDREN BE
GIVEN A DECENT CHANCE IN LIFE. A CHILD WHO IS GIVEN THE RIGHT TO
HOPE, HAS EVERYTHING. I INTEND TO SEE THAT EVERY CHILD
IS GUARANTEED THAT RIGHT.

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