

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
TO THE
U.S. LIONS FORUM 1977
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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Frank D. Sullivan

*50 Date
Camp 27
L. J. Perry
W. J. R.*

MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO, IN THE MIDST OF THE GREATEST ECONOMIC DEPRESSION AND MOST WIDESPREAD HUMAN SUFFERING OUR COUNTRY HAD EVER EXPERIENCED, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT SOUGHT TO REVIVE AMERICA WITH A MULTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. SOME WORKED BETTER THAN OTHERS. SOME ARE STILL WITH US TODAY. SOME WERE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL. AND SOME PROBABLY DID MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

BUT ROOSEVELT SAID, "BETTER THE OCCASIONAL FAULTS OF A GOVERNMENT THAT LIVES IN A SPIRIT OF CHARITY THAN THE CONSTANT OMISSIONS OF A GOVERNMENT FROZEN IN THE ICE OF ITS OWN INDIFFERENCE."

IN THE FOUR DECADES THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF MORE AND MORE ACTIVELY TO THE SPIRIT OF CHARITY AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE IN NEED.

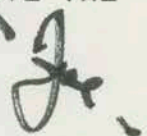
SO GREAT IS THAT COMMITMENT TODAY THAT ROOSEVELT'S PROPOSALS, REVOLUTIONARY AS THEY WERE IN THEIR DAY, SEEM ALMOST STINGY BY COMPARISON.

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AND YET THE PROBLEM OF GOVERNMENT'S "OCCASIONAL FAULTS" HAS GROWN, AS WELL, WITH THE PASSING OF TIME. THOSE "OCCASIONAL FAULTS" HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE FREQUENT, MORE AND MORE EXPENSIVE, AS GOVERNMENT HAS GROWN LARGER AND LARGER--SO MUCH SO THAT THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER IS BEGINNING TO SEE MORE FAULTS THAN VIRTUES IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS OF ALL KINDS.

QUALITY SERVICE BY LIONS

AS MEMBERS OF LIONS INTERNATIONAL, YOU HAVE A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED. YOU DIDN'T GET THAT REPUTATION BY RUNNING PROGRAMS THAT DIDN'T WORK. PEOPLE CAN SEE THE RESULTS OF YOUR WORK, THAT YOU ARE REALLY "PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE," AND THAT YOU ARE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF YOUR SERVICE.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. K.', is written over the end of the paragraph.

ALL I CAN SAY IS, I WISH THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON HAD A FEW MORE LIONS ON THE PAYROLL.

I ALSO WISH WE COULD GET MORE CIVIC INVOLVEMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND NOT HAVE TO RELY SO HEAVILY ON GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON.

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THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY SOME AREAS WHERE GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL. ONE OF THESE AREAS IS PROTECTING THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF THOSE WITH SOCIAL OR PHYSICAL HANDICAPS.

WHILE THE DECADE OF THE 1960'S WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR ADVANCING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE SOCIALLY HANDICAPPED, THE 1970'S MAY WELL BE REMEMBERED FOR ADVANCING THE RIGHTS OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED JUST AS DRAMATICALLY.

MAGNA CARTA FOR HANDICAPPED

THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, THE EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT, AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT COMBINE TO FORM A MAGNA CARTA FOR THE HANDICAPPED AMERICAN.

THEY DEMAND THAT HANDICAPPED CHILDREN HAVE A PUBLIC EDUCATION TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS, THAT BUSINESSES DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A PERSON BECAUSE OF HIS HANDICAP, AND THAT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS JUST AS PROPER AND JUST AS IMPORTANT IN HIRING THE HANDICAPPED WORKER AS IN HIRING THE MINORITY WORKER.

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I WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT CONGRESS ADOPTED AN AMENDMENT TO THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1976--AN AMENDMENT I WAS PROUD TO SPONSOR--PROVIDING FOR A \$25,000 TAX CREDIT TO BUSINESSMEN WHO REMOVE ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS TO THE HANDICAPPED AT THEIR PLACES OF BUSINESS.

WE HAVE THE BEGINNINGS NOW OF A NEW GENERATION OF LAWS TO PROTECT THE SOCIALLY HANDICAPPED--THOSE WHO LIVE IN POVERTY, DESPAIR AND HUNGER--AND TO MAKE THE PROGRAMS SERVING THESE PEOPLE MORE EFFECTIVE.

THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IS A GOOD EXAMPLE. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, IT WAS THE POLICY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE A PARTIAL CASH PURCHASE OF FOOD STAMPS. THIS IS THE ONE PROGRAM THAT HELPS ASSURE THERE WILL BE FOOD ON THE TABLE. BUT WE FOUND THAT MANY PEOPLE WERE SO DESPERATELY POOR THEY COULDN'T COME UP WITH THE CASH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, WHILE OTHERS WHO DIDN'T DESERVE ASSISTANCE WERE GETTING IT. THAT CLEARLY WASN'T FAIR. SO WE PASSED LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE PURCHASE REQUIREMENT AND CUT OFF HIGHER INCOME USERS. IT IS A BALANCED REFORM WHICH HELPS THE NEEDY AND ELIMINATES THE GREEDY. AS A RESULT, THE CONGRESS PASSED LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE FOOD STAMP PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.

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THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP TOWARD WELFARE REFORM--BUT LIKE ALL OF YOU,
I'M STILL WAITING FOR THE GIANT LEAP.

WELFARE REFORM

PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY UNVEILED HIS WELFARE REFORM PACKAGE,
WHICH HE CALLS A "PROGRAM FOR BETTER JOBS AND INCOME." BUT
BEFORE THAT PROPOSAL BECOMES LAW, I CAN ASSURE YOU THERE WILL
BE SOME CHANGES MADE.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL WOULD CENTRALIZE WELFARE PAYMENTS IN
WASHINGTON. IT COULD DRAMATICALLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
ON WELFARE. IT WOULD ELIMINATE THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM IN FAVOR
OF A CASH PAYMENT--WHICH WOULD NOT ASSURE FOOD ON THE TABLE.
AND IT WOULD INSTITUTE A MASSIVE PROGRAM FOR UP TO 1.4 MILLION
MAKE-WORK JOBS ON THE FEDERAL PAYROLL.

DEPENDENCE ON THE GOVERNMENT--WHETHER FOR WELFARE OR FOR MAKE
WORK JOBS--IS NOT MY IDEA OF REAL WELFARE REFORM. BUT DEPENDENCE
IS STILL THE THEME AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S
WELFARE PROPOSAL, AND THE COST OF THAT DEPENDENCE IS STAGGERING.

BUT THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS THAT THERE IS NO REDUCTION IN THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN ALL OF THIS. IN FACT, THAT ROLE IS ENLARGED.

IT IS A TRAGIC MISTAKE TO THINK THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT--OR EVEN THE OBLIGATION--TO RIGHT EVERY WRONG, CURE EVERY ILL IN AMERICAN SOCIETY.

TO BELIEVE THAT IS TO RISK THE VERY FREEDOM THAT HAS MADE AMERICA THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

AS PRESIDENT FORD WAS SO FOND OF SAYING, "A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT IS A GOVERNMENT BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE FROM YOU EVERYTHING YOU HAVE."

VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE

I AM ENCOURAGED WHEN I SEE PEOPLE LIKE YOU TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO SOLVE THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF OUR SOCIETY INSTEAD OF SAYING, "LET THE GOVERNMENT DO IT."

THIS COUNTRY IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF MORE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE YOURS, MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO BELIEVE IN TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS, WHO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ITS PLACE, BUT THAT PLACE IS NOT EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK.

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WE NEED MORE PEOPLE WHO SEE THE POTENTIAL FOR SERVICE IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH, IN THE SCHOOL, IN THE CIVIC AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION--PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME, NOT IN WASHINGTON.

OF ALL THE CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS I'VE KNOWN, NONE HAS A GREATER REPUTATION FOR SERVICE THAN THE LION'S CLUB. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ASSOCIATE THIS FINE ORGANIZATION WITH ITS WORK FOR THE BLIND, AND I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT NEXT YEAR YOU WILL BEGIN A MAJOR NEW PROGRAM TO HELP THOSE WITH SPEECH AND HEARING IMPAIRMENTS.

ALTHOUGH SOME 22 MILLION AMERICANS SUFFER SOME FORM OF HEARING LOSS, IT REMAINS THE "INVISIBLE HANDICAP".

NEW PROGRAMS

FORTUNATELY, A GREAT MANY NEW IDEAS AND PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

- HEARING EAR DOGS ARE BEING TRAINED TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S CRIES, TO THE DOORBELL, AND TO FIRE ALARMS.
- YOUR OWN ORGANIZATION HAS CONTRIBUTED THOUSANDS OF AUDIO AIDS TO SCHOOLS FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEAF CHILDREN.
- A TELEPHONE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO ENABLE THE HEARING IMPAIRED TO USE THIS INDISPENSIBLE TOOL OF MODERN SOCIETY. IT'S CALLED THE "TELETYPEWRITER," AND INSTEAD OF TALKING, THE HEARING-IMPAIRED CAN TYPE THEIR CONVERSATIONS.

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COMMUNICATING WITH CONGRESS

I'M HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE SENATE RECENTLY ADOPTED A PROPOSAL OF MINE TO INSTALL TELETYPEWRITERS IN THE CAPITOL TO ALLOW HEARING IMPAIRED CONSTITUENTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR SENATORS DIRECTLY FOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS SYSTEM IS ANTICIPATED TO BE IN OPERATION BY JANUARY.

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION HAS APPROVED THE USE OF "CLOSED CAPTIONING" FOR TELEVISION PROGRAMS. A SPECIAL DECODING DEVICE IS BEING DEVELOPED TO TELEWISE THESE CAPTIONS WHICH ARE INVISIBLE ON A REGULAR TELEVISION SCREEN.

LAST YEAR, WHILE SERVING AS THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION, I REQUESTED PERMISSION TO USE A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WHEN I WAS ON TELEVISION. ALTHOUGH I MET WITH RESISTANCE AT FIRST, THE T.V. NETWORKS EVENTUALLY COOPERATED, AND THE HEARING IMPAIRED VIEWERS PARTICIPATED IN A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDINGS. MORE SHOULD BE DONE ALONG THESE LINES IN THE FUTURE.

--AND IF THE LION'S CLUB IS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE TO DO, I HAVE TWO SUGGESTIONS.

FIRST, I KNOW YOU OPERATE A ROVING MEDICAL VAN IN BANGLADESH, AND I HOPE YOU WOULD USE A FEW IN THE UNITED STATES, SPECIFICALLY TO IDENTIFY THE HEARING IMPAIRED.

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SECOND, THOSE TELETYPEWRITERS HAVE ONE MAJOR DRAWBACK. THEY'RE VERY EXPENSIVE. I'M SURE A GOOD MANY PEOPLE IN EACH OF YOUR COMMUNITIES WOULD BE VERY APPRECIATIVE IF YOU COULD SET UP A TELETYPEWRITER STATION FOR THEIR USE.

REACTION TO HANDICAPS

FINALLY, LET ME SAY THAT ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSON IS NOT HIS HANDICAP, BUT OTHER PEOPLE'S REACTION TO HIS HANDICAP.

TOO OFTEN, THAT REACTION IS ONE OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND EVEN PREJUDICE. RECENTLY A SENIOR IN COLLEGE APPLIED FOR AN INTERN POSITION IN MY OFFICE. IT WAS A VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT, BUT HE WANTED TO WORK, AND I GAVE HIM A JOB.

THIS YOUNG MAN WAS DEAF, BUT HE FIT INTO OUR OFFICE ROUTINE BEAUTIFULLY. HE IS NOW IN LAW SCHOOL, AND DOING WELL.

THIS STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING, BUT HOW MANY OTHER STORIES OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED DO? THERE'S ONE MORE THAT I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD OF.

IT IS THE STORY OF A GROUP OF MEN WHO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE AND WHO FORMED AN ORGANIZATION TO SERVE THEIR FELLOWMAN. IT IS THE STORY OF MEN LIKE JOSEPH McLOUGHLIN AND RALPH LYNAM WHO HAVE GIVEN SUCH STRONG AND INSPIRING LEADERSHIP TO THIS ORGANIZATION. IT IS THE STORY OF THIS ORGANIZATION'S ALLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HEARING AND SPEECH ACTION TO MEET A SERIOUS CHALLENGE HEAD-ON.

HELEN KELLER ASKED YOU FIFTY YEARS AGO TO BECOME "KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST DARKNESS," AND VALIANT KNIGHTS YOU HAVE BEEN.

NOW YOU TURN YOUR ENERGIES, YOUR COMPASSION AND YOUR HELPING HAND TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED. YOU BECOME KNIGHTS OF THE DEAF IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST SILENCE.

I AM AS PROUD OF YOU AS I CAN BE, I WILL DO ANYTHING I CAN TO HELP YOU IN THIS WORK. AND I AM HONORED TO HAVE SPENT THIS TIME WITH YOU TODAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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Also - T.O. - Betty

LIONS INTERNATIONAL SPEECH

OCTOBER 1, 1977

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO LIONS INTERNATIONAL, THROUGH THE KIND INVITATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HEARING AND SPEECH ACTION. I REMEMBER 7½ YEARS AGO WHEN I ADDRESSED THE NAHSA IN ST. LOUIS. AT THAT TIME, I HAD BEEN IN THE SENATE JUST OVER A YEAR. THEN I THOUGHT THE CONGRESS COULD SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF CREATING A WORLD FREE OF BARRIERS SO THAT HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS COULD STRIVE FOR THEIR OWN LEVEL OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.

WELL, NOW I SEE THAT REAL ACHIEVEMENT IS NOT QUITE SO SIMPLE NOR SO EASILY ACCOMPLISHED AS I ONCE THOUGHT, BUT I'M GLAD TO BE ABLE TO REPORT THAT THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS FOR HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS.

LEGISLATION

THREE NEW FEDERAL LAWS
SINCE 1970, ~~3 VERY IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION~~ HAVE BEEN
ENACTED :
~~SIGNED INTO LAW. THESE ARE~~ THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, THE
EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT, AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT. *EACH REFLECTS A COMMITMENT*
~~THESE LAWS REFLECT THE~~
BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO OUR NATION'S HANDICAPPED CITIZENS, TO PROVIDING
~~INTENT OF CONGRESS THAT HANDICAPPED CHILDREN DESERVE A FREE~~
TO HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, ~~TO ENDING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST~~
PUBLIC EDUCATION ~~TAILORED TO THEIR OWN NEEDS; THAT BUSINESSES~~
THE HANDICAPPED BY BUSINESSES WHICH
~~DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A~~
~~PERSON BECAUSE OF THEIR HANDICAP~~, *TO* ~~AND THAT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS~~
IN EMPLOYMENT OF
~~A REASONABLE PRACTICE IN EMPLOYING THE HANDICAPPED. THE GOVERNMENT~~
~~HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO SET AN EXAMPLE OF FAIRNESS FOR THE REST~~
~~OF THE COUNTRY.~~

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AID TO THE POOR

~~AS ONE LOOKS AT OUR VARIOUS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, IT IS~~
~~EVIDENT THAT~~ BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE SPENT BY ~~THE~~ GOVERNMENT *at it now*
IN ATTEMPT TO "CARE FOR PEOPLE." I KNOW THAT THIS YEAR'S THEME
FOR LIONS INTERNATIONAL IS "LIONISM: PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE."
WELL, A GOVERNMENT OF, FOR, AND BY THE PEOPLE HAS AN OBLIGATION
~~TO CARE FOR ITS CHARGES.~~

AS A MANIFESTATION OF THIS, CONGRESS HAS PASSED PROGRAMS OFFERING
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE, NUTRITION ASSISTANCE,
AND STRAIGHT DOLLAR ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDY. I DON'T THINK
THAT ANYONE REALLY BEGRUDGES THIS ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDY, BUT
CONTROVERSY ARISES OVER THE DEFINITION OF "NEEDY." MANY PERSONS
HAVE ABUSED THE GENEROUSITY OF THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER THROUGH
FALSE APPLICATIONS AND DECEPTIVE CLAIMS. WELFARE REFORM SHOULD
PROVIDE EQUITABLE AID TO THOSE DESERVING IT, AND SHOULD WEED OUT
THE INELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.

Food Stamps

Recently Congress sent to the President a bill that would eliminate the food stamp purchase requirement. This means that eligible recipients could receive their food stamps without having to purchase a certain portion of their stamps. At one time, I supported the concept of paying for part of the coupons. In the past few years, however, I realized that ~~this~~ restriction keeps many of the very poor from benefitting from this nutritional program. Many families simply can not come up with a lump-sum cash payment to purchase their stamps, and are denied participation in the program.

I was pleased this new philosophy was endorsed by the Congress, and by the Administration in its testimony before the Agriculture Committee. Two years ago, Senator McGovern and I introduced a bill which first proposed this change. In my opinion, we have taken the first step towards true welfare reform.

We aren't completely revamping the food stamp program nor trading it in for something brand new and untested. Instead, we've taken an existing program, studied its weaknesses, and made significant changes to allow for broader participation by those who are eligible.

I think this is an important component of true welfare reform, ~~and one which Republicans should focus on~~. The soundest reform comes from working with an existing program to target proper assistance to the poor, while cutting off higher income persons who are misusing the programs.

Welfare Reform

For these very reasons, I have reservations about the President's welfare plan, or the "Program for Better Jobs and Income," as he prefers to call it. To start with, I think the proposed plan is too ambitious -- welfare is a complex and costly problem, to which there is not a simple, single solution. If he has so much trouble running our present programs, why does he think a program four times larger would be any easier to administer?

I have another problem with the proposal. It strikes me that maybe we have categorical assistance programs because they serve a purpose. By having a separate program for nutritional assistance, we can target aid where it's needed. You can call it conservative if you wish, but I think hungry children have a much better chance of being fed a decent meal if their parents receive food stamp coupons, which can be used only for food, than if money is given for assistance.

While I referred to this as a conservative position, I've had some of the food lobby groups -- which have a liberal reputation on Capitol Hill -- tell me that many of their members feel the same way. The President's plan does little to ensure that dependent children will benefit from welfare reform.

Beyond this philosophical difference, we quickly run into a problem of finances. I see some hidden costs written into the President's plan. For instance, when telling us how much his program will cost, the President failed to mention an extra \$3.3 billion that arises when middle income families are allowed to take the earned income tax

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CREDIT. ALSO, CARTER DOES NOT TALK ABOUT THE COST OF A \$5.5 BILLION TEMPORARY JOBS PROGRAM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE BEFORE 1980, WHEN HIS BILL IS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE. THE PRESIDENT COUNTS AS REVENUE \$1.3 BILLION TO COME FROM A WELLHEAD OIL TAX. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT CONGRESS HASN'T YET APPROVED THIS TAX. IN FACT, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTED IT DOWN JUST THIS WEEK.

THESE EXTRA COSTS ADD UP TO OVER \$10 BILLION, WELL OVER THE \$2.8 BILLION IN NEW MONIES WHICH CARTER SAYS HIS PROGRAM WILL COST TO THE PUBLIC. I SEE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONCERNED LAYMEN AND LEGISLATORS TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE, AND TO PUSH FOR REAL REFORM.

AS I LOOK AT THE PRESIDENT'S WELFARE PROPOSAL, IT STRIKES ME THAT HE'S ASKING THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER TO TAKE A BIG GAMBLE. HE WANTS US TO TRADE IN OUR PRESENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR SOMETHING BRAND NEW AND UNTESTED. WOULD IT NOT BE A WISER APPROACH TO TAKE AN EXISTING PROGRAM, STUDY ITS WEAKNESSES, AND MAKE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO CORRECT FOR THOSE PROBLEMS? THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM IS THAT MORE AND MORE FEDERAL AID IS BEING THROWN TO THE PUBLIC. UNFORTUNATELY, WE REALLY DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS SOLVING ANY PROBLEMS.

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COMMUNITY EFFORTS

WE SEEM TO HAVE CREATED AN IMBALANCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. WE USED TO THINK THAT PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPLEMENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO CARE FOR THE NEEDY. BUT, I THINK THAT THIS IS WHERE WE'VE MISSED THE BOAT. INSTEAD OF PROMOTING EFFORTS LIKE THE LIONS ARE DOING, WE SIMPLY ASK FOR MORE AND MORE GOVERNMENT MONEY.

WHO CAN BEST DEFINE THE PROBLEM WHICH WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ADDRESS? WHO IS IN THE POSITION TO KNOW BEST WHAT TYPE OF CARE IS NEEDED? WHO IT IS BEST ADMINISTERED? SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES IN CONGRESS SAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT KNOWS BEST, BUT I DISAGREE. WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRABS THIS RESPONSIBILITY, IT USURPS A COMMUNITY'S AUTHORITY TO DEFINE ITS OWN NEEDS. DANIEL WEBSTER DEFINES THE COMMUNITY AS "A UNIFIED BODY OF INDIVIDUALS." I WORRY THAT THIS UNITY IS FADING AS THE COMMUNITY'S TRADITIONAL ROLE OF AUTHORITY IS RECEDING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

HELP WITH THESE PROBLEMS REQUIRES THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDIVIDUALS. STANDING BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE CIVIC AND CHURCH GROUPS LIKE LIONS INTERNATIONAL. SOMETIMES CALLED THE "MEDIATING STRUCTURES," YOU WORK TO CHECK THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTE AND SOMETIMES RUTHLESS INVASION INTO TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS WHICH COULD BETTER BE HANDLED BY INDIVIDUALS AND MEDIATING STRUCTURES. IT IS A MISTAKE TO THINK THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT -- OR EVEN THE OBLIGATION --

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TO INTERVENE IN EVERY TROUBLE AREA. WHEN IT DOES SO, IT ROBS THE COMMUNITY OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY, AND LEAVES THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN BEST HANDLE THESE TYPES OF PROBLEMS.

BECAUSE LIONS INTERNATIONAL IS MADE UP OF INDIVIDUALS, AND BECAUSE YOU OFFER HELP IN INDIVIDUALS, YOU ARE IN A BETTER POSITION THAN THE GOVERNMENT TO KNOW WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES ARE MOST NEEDED BY UNFORTUNATE OR DISADVANTAGED CITIZENS. AS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THROUGH YOUR WORK WITH THE BLIND, LIONS INTERNATIONAL HAS A HARD-WORKING, DEDICATED MEMBERSHIP WHICH IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES NEEDED BY THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED COMMUNITY.

THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND BUT THAT OUR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE THE BEST PROVIDERS OF CARE. AND, I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER EXAMPLE THAN LIONS INTERNATIONAL. YOU ARE ORGANIZED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO SUPPLY HELP TO THOSE NEEDING IT. YOU HAVE REASON TO TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR THE BLIND. MANY PERSONS AUTOMATICALLY PAIR LIONS WITH SERVICE TO THE BLIND BECAUSE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS FIELD ARE SO WELL-KNOWN AND RESPECTED. YOU DEMONSTRATE WHAT I THINK SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. YOU DON'T WAIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OR SOMEONE ELSE TO SHOULDER THE PROBLEMS.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE EXPANDING YOUR SERVICE PROJECTS. NEXT YEAR, YOUR THEME WILL FOCUS ON NEEDS OF THE SPEECH AND HEARING IMPAIRED. I THINK THIS IS INDICATIVE OF YOUR GROWING INTEREST IN THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH HEARING PROBLEMS. I AM PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO EMPHASIZE HANDICAPS IN COMMUNICATION NEXT YEAR.

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OF ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HANDICAPS WITH WHICH I HAVE WORKED, THE ONES ASSOCIATED WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS PRESENT PROBABLY THE MOST UNIQUE DIFFICULTIES TO RESOLVE. TO BEGIN WITH, IT IS THE "INVISIBLE HANDICAP." ALTHOUGH MILLIONS OF PERSONS HAVE SOME TYPE OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT -- ROUGHLY 22 MILLION ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH -- WE ARE NOT EXTREMELY CONSCIOUS OF ITS SCOPE. PERHAPS BECAUSE IT IS NOT EASILY RECOGNIZED AS OTHER DISABILITIES ARE IS THE SIMPLE, BUT TRUE EXPLANATION.

NEEDS OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED

PERHAPS HEARING IMPAIRMENTS ARE NOT GENERALLY RECOGNIZED BECAUSE COMMUNICATION BARRIERS HAVE KEPT THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED FROM CIRCULATING AT RANDUM ALONG SOCIETY'S PATHWAYS. TOO OFTEN, THESE PERSONS HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED INTO SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND DIRECTED INTO UNCREATIVE, UNFILLING SLOTS IN LIFE. FORTUNATELY, THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT NOW.

MORE ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED. TWO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE NOW SERVING THE HEARING IMPAIRED IN PARTICULAR. GALLAUDET COLLEGE, IN WAHSINGTON, D.C., AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE DEAF, WITHIN THE ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BOTH SPECIALIZE IN INSTRUCTING THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED.

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EVEN THOUGH THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE PROVIDING NEEDED SERVICES, THE REAL EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM BEGINS EARLIER, BEFORE THE CHILD REACHES COLLEGE. EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF HEARING PROBLEMS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE WHEN WORKING WITH HEARING DISORDERS. IF THE HEARING PROBLEM GOES UNDETECTED, THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE INDIVIDUAL IS ALMOST IRREPARABLE. NOT ONLY IS THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS SET BACK, BUT SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS ARE DIFFICULT AND FRUSTRATING.

IN MY OPINION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF HEARING IMPAIRMENTS CANNOT BE OVERPLAYED. THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE CLUES THAT A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND MAY HAVE A HEARING IMPAIRMENT. DOCTORS DO NOT HAVE THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY TO DISCOVER THE DIFFICULTY. PUBLIC AWARENESS ALSO MEANS KNOWING HOW TO RESPOND TO THE PERSON ON THE STREETS, IN CHURCH, IN SCHOOL, ETC. WHO HAS TROUBLE COMMUNICATING WITH THE HEARING POPULATION.

EVEN WHEN THE IMPAIRMENT HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED, AND THE TREATMENT STARTED, THERE REMAIN PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENTS THAT ONE MUST EVENTUALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH. A WORLD WITHOUT SOUND CAN BE DEAFENING IN ITS STILLNESS. THE DRONE OF TRAFFIC, THE JANGLE OF A TELEPHONE, THE CLACKING OF A TYPEWRITER, AND THE CRASHING OF A GLASS ARE ALL ORDINARY NOISES WHICH MOST OF US LIVE WITH, AND OFTEN THINK WE WOULD LIKE TO LIVE WITHOUT. BUT, IF WE LIVED WITHOUT THOSE, WE WOULD ALSO LIVE WITHOUT THE HUM OF THE HUMMING BIRD, WITHOUT THE COMFORT OF A MOTHER'S SONG, WITHOUT THE BRIGHTNESS OF CHURCH BELLS, AND WITHOUT THE CRY OF WARNING. TO MAKE A SAFE RECOVERY AFTER ENTRY INTO THE WORLD OF SILENCE, SOMETIMES COUNSELING OF BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE FAMILY IS REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED.

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES

AS I LOOK AT SOME OF THE PROJECTS WHICH YOU NOW OPERATE, I SEE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH THESE COULD BE ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED. FOR INSTANCE, A MOBILE MEDICAL STATION SIMILAR TO THE MEDICARE VAN YOU RUN IN BANGLADESH COULD PROVIDE VALUABLE TESTING AND DIAGNOSIS SERVICES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. ONE OF THE LATEST DISCOVERIES NOW AVAILABLE TO THE DEAF IS A HEARING EAR DOG. WHILE THIS IS JUST NOW BEING DEVELOPED, DOGS ARE SHOWING REMARKABLE PROMISE AND PREDILECTION IN THEIR TRAINING. THEY ARE BEING TRAINED TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S CRIES, TO THE DOORBELL, TO FIRE ALARMS, AND SO ON. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS STILL A BRAND NEW PROJECT, AND TO MY KNOWLEDGE, ONLY A VERY FEW SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY ARE TRAINING HEARING EAR DOGS. BUT, ALREADY THE DEMAND FOR SUCH DOGS IS TREMENDOUS.

A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY IS SPENT ON HEARING AIDS, MANY OF WHICH ARE IMPROPERLY FITTED, AND ALMOST USELESS TO THE WEARER. I KNOW THAT LIONS GIVE AUDIO AIDS TO SCHOOLS TO BENEFIT THE DEAF. PERHAPS THIS SERVICE COULD PERHAPS BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HEARING AIDS TO THOSE NEEDING THEM.

TODAY OUR SOCIETY IS ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON TELEPHONE SERVICE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE TELEPHONE IS THE BIGGEST BARRIER DEAF PERSONS HAVE TO OVERCOME. BUT, THERE IS A WAY AROUND THE BARRIER. IN PLACE OF TELEPHONES, TELETYPEWRITERS CAN BE USED BY PERSONS WITH HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS. WITH THIS TYPE OF COMMUNICATION, EACH PARTY TYPES THEIR CONVERSATION ON A KEYBOARD, THEN THE MESSAGE

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IS VIEWED IN WRITTEN FORM AT THE RECEIVING END. THE SYSTEM IS NOT WITHOUT ITS DRAWBACKS, EVEN THOUGH IT DOES REVOLUTIONIZE COMMUNICATION FOR THOSE WITH HEARING PROBLEMS. FIRST, THE EQUIPMENT IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN STANDARD TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT. IN ADDITION, LONG DISTANCE CALLS TAKE CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN NORMAL CALLS BECAUSE THE CONVERSATION HAS TO BE TYPED.

I'M PLEASED THAT RECENTLY THE SENATE ACCEPTED AN AMENDMENT OF MINE THAT PROVIDES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TELETYPEWRITERS IN THE CAPITOL. THIS WILL ALLOW HEARING IMPAIRED CONSTITUENTS TO HAVE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR SENATORS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

MAYBE THERE ARE AREAS WHERE THE LIONS COULD SET UP A TELETYPEWRITER STATION, WHICH SEVERAL HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO.

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION HAS GIVEN PERMISSION FOR PART OF A BROADCASTING INTERVAL LINE TO BE RESERVED FOR CLOSED CAPTIONING. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DECODERS, WHICH WILL BE ATTACHED TO TELEVISION SETS TO DECODE CAPTIONED TELEVISION PROGRAMS. THERE IS A NEED TO ENCOURAGE TELEVISION STATIONS TO PROVIDE THIS TYPE OF CLOSED CAPTIONING. CLOSED CAPTIONING MEANS THAT ON A REGULAR TELEVISION SCREEN, NO CAPTIONS ARE VISIBLE. HOWEVER, WHEN A DECODER IS ATTACHED TO THE SET, THE CAPTIONS ARE TELEVIEWED ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN. THIS METHOD WILL NOT DISTURB THE PICTURE FOR HEARING VIEWERS, BUT WILL ALLOW PERSONS WITH DECODERS TO PICK UP THE CAPTIONS.

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IN EFFECT, IT WOULD OPEN UP A BRAND NEW WORLD TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED. REGARDLESS OF THE RIDICULE TELEVISION PROGRAMMING OFTEN RECEIVES, TELEVISION IS FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN AMERICAN CULTURE AND SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED. BUT, UNLESS THE TELEVISION NETWORKS CAN BE PERSUADED TO CAPTION THEIR PROGRAMS, THE DECODERS WILL BE OF LITTLE USE.

SUMMARY

THERE IS REASON FOR APPREHENSION AMONG PERSONS WHO HAVE SPEECH OR HEARING IMPAIRMENTS. THERE IS DISCRIMINATION PRACTICED AGAINST SUCH PERSONS, AND WE MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT IT AND TACKLE IT FACE ON. EARLIER THIS YEAR A SENIOR IN COLLEGE APPLIED FOR AN INTERN POSITION IN MY OFFICE. IT WAS A VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT, BUT HE WANTED TO WORK, AND I DECIDED TO ACCEPT HIS APPLICATION. THIS YOUNG MAN WAS DEAF AND FIT INTO THE OFFICE ROUTINE BEAUTIFULLY. HE IS NOW IN LAW SCHOOL, AND DOING WELL. THE ONLY SAD PART OF THE STORY IS THAT HE APPLIED IN MY OFFICE ONLY AFTER HIS TWO HOMESTATE SENATORS REFUSED TO LET HIM VOLUNTEER IN THEIR OFFICES.

I'VE MENTIONED SOME AREAS WHERE I THINK LIONS INTERNATIONAL CAN HELP. YOU HAVE ABLE LEADERS. YOUR PRESIDENT, JOSEPH McLOUGHLIN, HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, AND DESERVES OUR CONGRATULATIONS. YOUR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT, RALPH LYNAM, IS EXCELLENTLY QUALIFIED TO ENSURE THAT LIONS INTERNATIONAL WILL CONTINUE TO RENDER SERVICE TO LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY. I NOTE THAT HE IS ON THE NASHA BOARD, SO KNOW HE BRINGS WITH HIM A COMMITMENT TO THE SPEECH AND HEARING IMPAIRED.

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IN 1925, HELEN KELLER SPOKE TO YOUR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.
SHE DARED YOU TO BECOME "KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND IN THE CRUSADE
AGAINST DARKNESS." YOU ACCEPTED AND CONQUERED THE CHALLENGE.
BECAUSE OF MISS KELLER'S DOUBLE HANDICAP, I DOUBT IF SHE WOULD
MIND IF YOU ACCEPTED YET ANOTHER CHALLENGE, TO BECOME "KNIGHTS
OF THE DEAF IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST SILENCE."

THANK YOU.