

Quice

April 28, 1989

TO: Senator Dole
FROM: Mo West
SUBJECT: NARF Speech

9/9/89

The National Association of Rehabilitation Facilities has written inviting you to speak at their annual conference. Depending on your schedule. I would highly recommend you accept, because this is a large organization with widespread representation of the disability community as well as the private sector. It will be well attended. This is one organization I will heavily rely on for input with respect to comprehensive civil rights legislation for people with disabilities.

Will you speak at their conference?

Yes _____ No _____



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION FACILITIES

Edmund S. McLaughlin
President

John A. Doyle
Executive Director

February 17, 1989

Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senate
141 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-22101

Dear Senator Dole:

It is with great personal and professional pleasure that I invite you to present the Keynote Address for the Saturday General Session of the 20th Annual Rehabilitation Conference, "Rehabilitation Policy: Thriving or Surviving". The General Session is to be held on Saturday, July 1, 1989, at 8:00 a.m. in the Mayflower Hotel here in Washington, D.C. We would specifically like you to address the Policy on Disability and Rehabilitation and What to Expect from the 101st Congress in this Area. We will of course provide your normal honorarium and transportation.

Having had the opportunity to observe first hand your critical support of programs serving persons with disabilities and to work closely with your staff, it would be an honor to introduce you to our membership who themselves are committed to serving persons with disabilities. Introducing you will be the Chairman of our Supported Employment Task Force, member of our National Board of Directors and Executive Committee and fellow Kansan, Gary C. Cook, of the Occupational Center of Central Kansas in Salina, Kansas. We expect 400-500 persons to be in attendance.

I most sincerely hope you will accept this invitation, Senator, and I and my staff stand ready to provide whatever assistance may be required to you and/or your staff in this regard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Continued best personal regards,

Sincerely,


John A. Doyle
Executive Director

SENATOR BOB DOLE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ON REHABILITATION FACILITIES
20TH ANNIVERSARY KEYNOTE ADDRESS
MAYFLOWER HOTEL - WASHINGTON, D.C.
JULY 1, 1989

IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS MORNING, TO
JOIN IN YOUR CELEBRATION OF NARF'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY.
FOR TWO DECADES, YOU HAVE PIONEERED CREATIVE
PROGRAMMING AND POLITICAL ADVOCACY FOR DISABLED
AMERICANS. IN THE PROCESS, YOU HAVE OPENED DOORS OF
OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS
-- GIVING NEW HOPE TO THEIR LIVES, AND IN THE PROCESS
ENRICHING OUR NATION WITH THEIR TALENTS AND
CREATIVITY.

YOU HAVE ALSO GROWN, BOTH IN SIZE AND INFLUENCE.

WITH 700 FACILITY MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

NARF HAS A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF PUTTING THE NEEDS
OF THE DISABLED ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA, AND SHAPING
FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS. I CAN PERSONALLY
ATTEST TO THE QUALITY OF YOUR REPRESENTATION HERE IN
WASHINGTON -- JOHN DOYLE AND HIS TALENTED STAFF.

I ALSO TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE MANY KANSANS WHO
HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH IN NARF -- PEOPLE LIKE YO
BESGTEN, GARY COOK, JIM BLUME AND BILL BROTTEN, TO
NAME JUST A FEW. AS THEY HAVE PROBABLY REMINDED YOU
MANY TIMES, OUR KANSAS STATE MOTTO IS, "TO THE STARS,
THROUGH DIFFICULTIES." IT IS A FITTING MOTTO, TOO, FOR
THIS ASSOCIATION, AND THE DISABLED AMERICANS IT
REPRESENTS.

HISTORY OF REHABILITATION

TO THE STARS. IT HAS ALREADY BEEN A LONG AND
TOUGH JOURNEY. ONLY IN THE PAST 20 YEARS HAVE WE
TRULY BEGUN TO BREAK DOWN AGE OLD BARRIERS, WHICH
DENIED TO DISABLED AMERICANS THE OPPORTUNITIES
GUARANTEED IN OUR TRADITIONS AND LAWS TO ALL
AMERICANS. AND WE'VE COME THIS FAR BECAUSE OF AN
EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP AT THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL
LEVELS -- A PARTNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT, FOUNDATION
AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP.

BUT THIS JOURNEY HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN. AND WE WILL
REACH OUR GOAL ONLY IF WE KEEP THAT PARTNERSHIP
INTACT, AND MAKE IT EVEN STRONGER.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP ON NATIONAL PROGRAMS STARTS IN THIS
CITY. I AM VERY PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAS CALLED
FOR A NEW EMPHASIS ON PROGRAMS SERVING THE
DISABLED, ESPECIALLY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

ON THIS AND SO MANY OTHER ISSUES, THOUGH, HE
CAN'T GET ANYWHERE WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT AND
SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS. SOME OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY
FALLS ON MY SHOULDERS. YOU CAN BE SURE THIS IS ONE
AREA WHERE I WILL NEVER LET DOWN.

WE NEED TO SPEND MONEY -- FOR MANY PROBLEMS,
THERE ARE NO FREE, MAGIC WAND SOLUTIONS. BUT WE
SHOULD ALSO AVOID THE PITFALL OF EQUATING CARING WITH
SPENDING; OF MEASURING SUCCESS BY BUDGETARY
BOTTOM LINES.

LET'S FACE IT: GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS ISN'T EXACTLY A STRAIT-JACKET, BUT IT SURE DOES REPRESENT A TIGHT, TIGHT FIT OF RESOURCES OVER NEEDS. THERE JUST AREN'T ENOUGH FEDERAL DOLLARS AROUND -- TO FUND EVERY WORTHWHILE IDEA FOR FEDERAL ACTION.

SO WE HAVE TO MAKE SOME TOUGH CHOICES; FIGURE OUT WAYS TO GET MORE PROGRAMMATIC BANG FOR THE BUCK; INSURE THAT EXISTING PROGRAMS ARE EFFICIENTLY ADMINISTERED, AND EFFECTIVELY COORDINATED. THAT'S PART OF MY RESPONSIBILITY, TOO.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

LET'S LOOK AT THOSE PRIORITIES. IN MY VIEW, THE
MAJOR DISABILITY THEMES OF THIS CONGRESS OUGHT TO BE
ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND INTEGRATION --
ALL FACTORS IN THE SUCCESS OF ANY INDIVIDUAL.

EMPLOYMENT

INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IS ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES. A RECENT HARRIS SURVEY SHOWS WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST. TWO-THIRDS OF ALL DISABLED PERSONS IN THIS COUNTRY BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 64 ARE NOT WORKING -- DESPITE THE FACT THAT OTHER EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT TWO-THIRDS OF UNEMPLOYED WORKING-AGE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WANT TO WORK.

THE DISABLED WANT TO WORK; CAN WORK. THEY
DESERVE THE CHANCE TO WORK. IT'S PART OF WHAT WE ALL
CALL BEING AN AMERICAN. AND, AS I SAID, IF WE CAN GET
THEM TO WORK -- IT'S NOT ONLY THE DISABLED, BUT THIS
WHOLE COUNTRY WHICH WILL BENEFIT.

CONGRESS SHOULD FOCUS ON CREATING INCENTIVES
FOR EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED, AND -- EQUALLY
IMPORTANT -- ELIMINATING THE DISINCENTIVES THAT
CURRENTLY EXIST.

WE ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROVIDE TO THOSE WITH DISABILITIES THE AFFORDABLE MEDICAL INSURANCE THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO ALL WORKERS. I WILL SOON INTRODUCE LEGISLATION WITH SENATOR RIEGLE TO ASSURE THAT THIS NEED IS MET. THE "SOCIAL SECURITY WORK INCENTIVES ACT" WILL ALLOW INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI) AND WHO EARN ABOVE THE SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY (SGA) TO CONTINUE TO WORK AND RECEIVE THEIR BENEFITS AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

COMMUNITY VS. INSTITUTIONAL CARE

AND WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHOSE DISABILITIES ARE SO SEVERE THAT THEY CANNOT WORK? WE CAN BE NO LESS ATTENTIVE TO THEIR PROBLEMS.

TODAY WE ARE SPENDING \$5.2 BILLION FOR MEDICAID'S ANTIQUATED, INEFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED -- THE LARGEST SINGLE FEDERAL PROGRAM FOR THE DISABLED. A BIG CHUNK OF THAT MONEY GOES TO THE "INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED" -- THE ICF/MR PROGRAM.

PEOPLE WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES DESERVE FULL
ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES -- SERVICES THAT MINIMIZE
THE RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR PERSONAL FREEDOM, AND
MAXIMIZE THEIR PERSONAL OPPORTUNITIES. RIGHT NOW, THE
MEDICAID PROGRAM IS NOT MEETING THAT TEST.

FOR THOSE WHO REALLY DO NOT NEED FULL-TIME
INSTITUTIONAL CARE -- THE GREAT MAJORITY --
COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES ARE BY FAR THE BEST
SOLUTION; THE SOLUTION WHICH PROVIDES MEANINGFUL
WORK OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE CHANCE TO ENJOY THE
SAME KIND OF DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES ENJOYED BY THEIR
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUE, JOHN CHAFEE, HAS CRAFTED AN EXCELLENT PIECE OF LEGISLATION, TO DEVELOP QUALITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE INSTITUTIONAL ASPECT OF THE MEDICAID PROGRAM. IT IS PART OF AN EFFORT THAT A NUMBER OF US IN CONGRESS ARE SPEARHEADING, TO PROVIDE REAL CHOICE -- CHOICE AMONG VARIOUS AVAILABLE SERVICES, AND CHOICE AMONG A VARIETY OF LIVING SITUATIONS.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

EMPLOYMENT, MEDICAL COVERAGE, INSTITUTIONAL AND
COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES -- THOSE ARE SOME OF THE
SPECIFIC CHALLENGES. BUT THERE IS ALSO ONE OVERRIDING
PROBLEM WHICH MUST ALWAYS REMAIN ON THE TOP OF OUR
AGENDA, UNTIL IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED -- DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST THE DISABLED.

NEARLY 16 YEARS AGO, THE CONGRESS TOOK AN
IMPORTANT, INITIAL STEP IN ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM, BY
ENACTING TITLE V OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973. THAT
LEGISLATION PROHIBITS RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND
FEDERAL CONTRACTS FROM DISCRIMINATING AGAINST
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. RECENT SUPREME COURT CASES
AND THE ENACTMENT OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT PIECES OF
CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE CIVIL RIGHTS
RESTORATION ACT AND THE FAIR HOUSING AMENDMENTS OF
1988 HAVE STRENGTHENED THE LEGAL BASE OF OUR
STRUGGLE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION.

TODAY, ON CAPITOL HILL, THE ISSUE IS MANIFEST IN
DEBATE OVER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.
CONCEPTUALLY, THE ADA POINTS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. IT
CORRECTLY EMPHASIZES THE EMPLOYMENT AREA, AND ON
REMOVING BARRIERS TO FULL PARTICIPATION AND
INTEGRATION IN SOCIETY. BUT I AGREE WITH SOME OF MY
HILL COLLEAGUES, THE ADMINISTRATION AND -- I THINK --
SOME OF YOU, THAT WE MUST CLARIFY SOME OF THE
SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN THE BILL.

IN PARTICULAR, I WANT TO INSURE THAT AS WE REMOVE THE BARRIERS NOW FACING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES -- AS WE MUST -- WE DO NOT PLACE AN UNFAIR AND UNREASONABLE BURDEN ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHICH MUST ACCOMODATE TO THE MANDATES OF THIS WORTHWHILE LEGISLATION. I WANT THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO JOIN IN ENTHUSIASTICALLY -- BECAUSE THEY SEE THE BENEFITS THEY WILL DERIVE FROM BEING ABLE TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCE REPRESENTED BY THE DISABLED; NOT TO BE DRAGGED IN KICKING AND SCREAMING, BECAUSE WE HAVE TOTALLY IGNORED THEIR LEGITIMATE CONCERNS, OR FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE REAL DOLLAR COSTS THEY WILL BEAR.

WE SHOULD CONSIDER A BALANCED PHASE-IN OF THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS LEGISLATION. WE SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE TO THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH WILL FEEL THE IMPACT OF THE LAW -- TO HELP THEM MAKE THE CHANGES THEY WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE, AND TO SEE THE WISDOM AND DESIRABILITY OF DOING SO. IN THE LONG RUN, THAT WILL NOT ONLY BE FAIR TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BUT BE BEST FOR THOSE THIS LEGISLATION IS INTENDED TO HELP.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS CLEAR: DISCRIMINATION COSTS THE
DISABLED DEARLY; COSTS THE PRIVATE SECTOR DEARLY;
AND COSTS THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER DEARLY. ALL
TAXPAYERS ARE UNDERWRITING THE WASTE THAT RESULTS
FROM OUR WIDESPREAD DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE
DISABLED. THIS TERRIBLE COST -- IN ECONOMIC AND HUMAN
TERMS -- IS FAR GREATER THAN WILL BE THE COST OF
ELIMINATING SUCH DISCRIMINATION.

BIPARTISANSHIP

SO THE CHALLENGES OUT THERE ARE REAL. WE ARE TRYING TO REACH SOME PRETTY DISTANT STARS. WE CAN GET THERE, BUT ONLY IF WE TRAVEL TOGETHER.

THE PRESIDENT MUST PROVIDE LEADERSHIP. THOSE OF US ON CAPITOL HILL MUST PROVIDE SOME, TOO.

BUT, FINALLY, IT IS GOING TO BE UP TO YOU. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU TO STAY INVOLVED. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR INVOLVEMENT CAN PAY OFF. IT CAN PAY OFF NOT ONLY AS YOU DIRECTLY DEAL WITH THE ISSUES ON YOUR VERY FULL PLATES. BUT IT CAN PAY OFF, TOO, IN THE POLITICAL ARENA. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT PARTISAN POLITICS. DISABLED ISSUES KNOW NO PARTISANSHIP. BUT I AM TALKING ABOUT LETTING YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN KNOW WHAT YOU THINK, WHAT YOU WANT.

THAT'S YOUR RIGHT AS AMERICANS. THAT'S YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF SO MANY
THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS -- FULL-FLEDGED AMERICANS --
WHO JUST WANT THEIR FULL-FLEDGED RIGHTS AND CHANCES
TO TAKE PART IN THE AMERICAN DREAM.