

OCTOBER 9, 1973

SUGGESTED ACTUALITY ON NATIONAL HIRE THE HANDICAPPED WEEK

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE SECOND WEEK IN OCTOBER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT AS "NATIONAL EMPLOY THE HANDICAPPED WEEK".

AT LEAST 10 PERCENT OF OUR TOTAL POPULATION ARE HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED IN SOME WAY THAT MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THESE PEOPLE TO LIVE WHAT THE REST OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED AS "NORMAL LIVES".

FOR THE HANDICAPPED, GETTING AND HOLDING A JOB REQUIRES OVERCOMING SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIERS. TOO OFTEN EMPLOYERS ARE LEERY OF HIRING HANDICAPPED PERSONS BECAUSE THEY ARE IGNORANT OF THEIR CAPABILITIES.

IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT DISABLED PERSONS SHOULD WANT TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY, CONTRIBUTING TO ITS PROGRESS. JUST AS OTHER PEOPLE DERIVE SATISFACTION FROM TAKING A PRODUCTIVE PART IN SOCIETY, SO DO OUR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS. IN VIEW OF THE EFFORTS MADE TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE, THE SAME OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE ACCORDED TO DISABLED MEN AND WOMEN, KNOWING THAT THEIR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SOCIAL FRAMEWORK IS AS STRONG, IF NOT MORE INTENSE THAN FOR OTHERS. AS PREVIOUS EXAMPLES SHOW, THIS CAN BENEFIT NOT ONLY THE HANDICAPPED, BUT THE ENTIRE NATION.