

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
KANSAS SPEECH AND HEARING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION  
WICHITA, KANSAS  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1971

\* THE REALIZATION OF POTENTIAL \*

ONE OF THE MANY REASONS KANSAS HAS A NATIONWIDE REPUTATION FOR PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF HANDICAPS IS THE RECORD OF THE KANSAS SPEECH AND HEARING SOCIETY. YOUR OUTSTANDING YEARS OF SERVICE AND CONCERN FOR THE HANDICAPPED ARE A GREAT POINT OF PRIDE FOR ALL KANSANS AND A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND HOPE FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM SPEECH AND HEARING DIFFICULTIES.

TONIGHT I AM INDEED HONORED TO BE WITH SUCH AN OUTSTANDING GROUP AND ONE WHICH IS SO VITALLY CONCERNED WITH THAT MOST HUMAN OF ALL FUNCTIONS -- COMMUNICATION AND THE DISFUNCTIONS OF COMMUNICATION WHICH CAN BE A MOST SIGNIFICANT HANDICAP.

I AM NO STRANGER TO THIS AREA OF PRIME CONCERN TO YOU. TWENTY-SIX YEARS AGO I BECAME A MEMBER OF AN OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD, FREQUENTLY UNDERESTIMATED, AND WHOLLY INVOLUNTARY MINORITY GROUP -- THE HANDICAPPED.

MEMBERSHIP IN THIS MINORITY HAS MEANT MANY THINGS TO ME. HOWEVER, ONE POINT OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE HAS BEEN AN APPRECIATION OF THE IMMENSE POTENTIAL FOR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR SOCIETY WHICH THE HANDICAPPED POSSESS. ALONG WITH THIS GREAT POTENTIAL, THERE IS ALSO A GREAT NEED, A NEED FOR THE UNDERSTANDING -- OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE HANDICAPPED FACE -- OF THE ASSISTANCE THEY REQUIRE TO FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL -- AND OF PRIORITIES FOR THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ATTAIN THIS GOAL.

THESE IDEAS I EXPRESSED IN MY FIRST SPEECH AS A SENATOR ON APRIL 14, 1969, THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY WAR TIME WOUNDS.

AS PART OF MY MAIDEN SENATE SPEECH, I PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF A PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON THE HANDICAPPED TO REVIEW EFFORTS ON BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, ON A BROAD BASIS, AND FURNISH SUGGESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOST CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN TO THE HANDICAPPED. I WAS HIGHLY GRATIFIED WHEN THE PRESIDENT APPOINTED TWO TASK FORCES -- ONE TO STUDY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, ONE THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED. THE TASK FORCE ON THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WAS COMPOSED OF THIRTEEN HIGHLY DEDICATED AND WIDELY EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUALS FROM STATE GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRY, AND

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. THE REPORT WHICH WAS DEVELOPED EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL COMMITMENT, FOR BETTER COORDINATION, GREATER PUBLIC INFORMATION AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES, GREATER FOCUS ON THE HANDICAPPED CHILD, AND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE HANDICAPPED. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CALLED FOR A JOINT COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES TO COORDINATE THE ADVOCACY AND REVIEW FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS PRESENTLY WORKING IN THE AREAS OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HANDICAPS. UNFORTUNATELY, NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PUT THIS RECOMMENDATION INTO PRACTICE.

- ACTIVITIES IN SPEECH AND HEARING -

ALTHOUGH NOTHING FORMAL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO IMPLEMENT THIS REPORT ON THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, I AM PLEASED THAT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT IS UNDERWAY ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY INVOLVING BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, AND PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS ON THE MANY AND VARIOUS FACETS OF SPEECH AND HEARING DIFFICULTIES. MANY OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE PROJECTS ARE HERE IN KANSAS. THE INSTITUTE OF LOGOPEDICS IN WICHITA HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR ITS WORK WITH SPEECH DEFECTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE MENTALLY RETARDED. ALSO IN WICHITA IS THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COUNSELING SERVICES, INC., ESTABLISHED BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE CITY. THIS ORGANIZATION PIONEERED IN THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

WHEN SUCH SERVICES WERE NOT ELSEWHERE AVAILABLE. THE PRESENT WELL-ROUNDED PROGRAM FEATURES SERVICES INCLUDING INTERPRETING FOR COMMUNITY AGENCIES SO THAT THEY CAN DISPENSE EFFECTIVE SERVICES TO DEAF CLIENTS, AND SUCH OTHER SERVICES AS PERSONAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING, ADULT EDUCATION, JOB PLACEMENT AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

- DELIVERY OF SERVICES -

AT THE GREATER KANSAS CITY HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER A GRANT FROM THE SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICE IS IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO THOSE WITH SPEECH AND HEARING PROBLEMS IN THE MODEL CITIES AREA. QUICK SERVICE IS EMPHASIZED IN THIS PROJECT, WITH ALL EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY, AT THE SAME LOCATION. THIS MODEL CITIES PROJECT ALSO HAS A REHABILITATION COUNSELOR AS A TEAM MEMBER TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS INTO TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.

- APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENT -

ONE OF THE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS DIRECTED TOWARD THE EMPLOYMENT FOR DEAF PERSONS -- AND THE INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM AND WELL-BEING THAT COMES FROM APPROPRIATE WORK -- IS THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES SO THE DEAF CAN BENEFIT FROM POST-HIGH SCHOOL TRAINING AT COMMUNITY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT THE JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST OF THESE PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRY.

- POSTAL OPPORTUNITIES -

AN IMAGINATIVE PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING IS ONE WHICH INVOLVES THE U. S. POSTAL SERVICE. INITIATED IN CHICAGO AND OTHER AREAS OF ILLINOIS IN 1967, SEVERAL OTHER STATE REHABILITATION AGENCIES ARE NOW WORKING WITH POST OFFICES IN VARIOUS CITIES SO THAT 313 DEAF PERSONS HAVE BEEN PLACED AS DISTRIBUTION CLERKS. THE SERVICES MADE AVAILABLE IN THIS PROGRAM INCLUDE PREPARING DEAF PERSONS TO TAKE POST OFFICE TESTS, ANY PARTICULAR TRAINING NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR TESTS, AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN THE EVALUATION PROCEDURES THEMSELVES.

THROUGHOUT THE NATION AS A WHOLE, 958 QUALIFIED DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT JOBS UNDER SPECIAL APPOINTING AUTHORITY. THIS AUTHORITY HAS BEEN RECENTLY EXPANDED TO ALLOW GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF REHABILITATION COUNSELORS FROM BOTH THE STATE REHABILITATION AGENCIES AND THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION. THE EXISTING PROGRAM IN KANSAS MERITS EXPANSION. CURRENTLY THERE ARE 7 APPOINTED DISTRIBUTION CLERKS, 5 OF WHOM ARE HERE IN WICHITA.

- KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER -

THE BUREAU OF EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED IS ASSISTING SEVERAL PROGRAMS IN KANSAS CONCERNED WITH THE SCHOOL AGE CHILD WITH SPEECH AND HEARING PROBLEMS. ONE GRANT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER FOCUSES ON DEAF-BLIND CHILDREN, SURELY A PROFOUNDLY DISABLING CONDITION. PARENTS OF THESE CHILDREN ARE INCLUDED IN THIS PROJECT BY ATTENDING WEEKLY SESSIONS TO LEARN HOW TO FACILITATE SELF-HELP TRAINING FOR THEIR CHILD.

ANOTHER INNOVATIVE PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, DIRECTED BY DR. WILLIAM DIEDRICH, IS UTILIZING COMPUTERS TO EVALUATE THERAPIST BEHAVIOR DURING TREATMENT IN REGARD TO THE TIME REQUIRED FOR REMISSION OF SYMPTOMS IN THE CHILD WITH SPEECH PROBLEMS. PRELIMINARY DATA SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE TWO, WHICH MIGHT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON FUTURE CURRICULUM AND TRAINING.

- SIGNIFICANT TRAINING PROGRAMS -

A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION RECENTLY HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO TRAIN PROFESSIONS FOR WORK WITH DISABLED CHILDREN IN EDUCATION SETTINGS. THE BUREAU OF EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED HAS 682 STUDENTS IN THIRTY-THREE PROGRAMS AT SEVEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN KANSAS. IN ADDITION TO TRAINING PERSONS IN SPEECH AND HEARING PROBLEMS, THESE GRANTS HELP SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON MENTALLY RETARDED, EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED, LEARNING DISABILITIES, AND OTHERS. ALSO, THE KANSAS EDUCATION AGENCY RECEIVED \$94,000 IN GRANTS FOR IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF TEACHERS OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN THIS YEAR.

THE CITATION OF THESE PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED IN PART BY FEDERAL FUNDS IS NOT DONE WITH ANY SENSE OF COMPLETION. IN KANSAS, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT WHILE 14,101 SPEECH IMPAIRED CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING SPECIALIZED SERVICES THROUGH THE SCHOOLS, 3,850 REMAIN UNSERVED; AND WHILE 321 HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN ARE BEING SERVED, 2,342 ARE NOT. BUT THE VARIETY OF THESE PROGRAMS DOES ILLUSTRATE THE BROAD FRONT ON WHICH PROBLEMS OF ALL THE DISABLED MUST BE MET.

- POVERTY AND DISABILITY -

THE RECENT EMPHASIS ON WELFARE REFORM AND THE PRESSING NEED TO ASSIST DEPENDENT PEOPLE TO BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING AND SELF-RESPECTING ONCE AGAIN IS YET ANOTHER APPROACH TO MEET THE PROBLEMS OF DISABILITIES. THE DISABLED ARE TOO OFTEN POOR, AND THE POOR ARE TOO OFTEN DISABLED.

PUBLIC HEALTH FIGURES SHOW THAT THERE EXISTS A GENERAL RATIO OF 50% DISABILITY FOR FAMILIES WITH INCOMES OF UNDER \$3,000, AND A CONTRASTING 10-11% OCCURRENCE IN FAMILIES MAKING \$7,000 OR MORE. FIGURES FROM THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT THIS OBSERVATION. IN 1971, 70% OF THOSE REHABILITATED HAD FAMILY INCOME BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL WHEN FIRST ACCEPTED FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES.

A MAJOR ROLE IS ENVISIONED FOR THE PRESENT STATE-FEDERAL PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION IN THE PRESIDENT'S WELFARE REFORM MEASURE. THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE DISABLED PERSONS, AS IT HAS SUCCESSFULLY DONE ALL ALONG, BUT THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM WILL SHIFT EMPHASIS TO MORE WELFARE CLIENTS AS A SOURCE OF REFERRAL OF DISABLED CLIENTS, AND THE SERVICES THAT WILL BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NEEDS. SOME FORM OF MANDATORY SCREENING WILL BE ESTABLISHED SO THAT PERSONS TOO DISABLED TO WORK WILL HAVE THE

OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE REHABILITATION SERVICES AS APPROPRIATE TO THEIR DISABILITY. THE OVERALL REHABILITATION PROGRAM IS NOW SERVING OVER ONE MILLION PERSONS AT ANY ONE TIME, WITH LAST YEAR'S REHABILITATION PLACING OVER 291,000 INTO GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT.

- NEW YOUTH SERVICE ROLE -

A NEW INNOVATIVE APPROACH BY THE PRESIDENT TO ENHANCE THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED AND TO BROADEN THE HORIZONS OF YOUNG AMERICANS HAS RECENTLY BEEN INITIATED. IT IS PART OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S NEW ACTION PROGRAM DIRECTED BY JOSEPH H. BLATCHFORD, WHOM YOU MAY BE MORE FAMILIAR WITH IN HIS ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS. IN FACT, THIS NEW PROGRAM INCORPORATES MANY OF THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF THE PEACE CORPS, APPLYING THEM TO STUDENTS RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

- STUDENT PARTICIPATION -

"UNIVERSITY YEAR FOR ACTION" IS THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST -- AND POTENTIALLY BROADEST -- RESPONSE TO THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE NOW READY AND EAGER TO MAKE THEIR LIVES COUNT FOR SOMETHING.

THIS FALL, APPROXIMATELY 500 STUDENTS FROM 11 UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES WILL ENROLL IN SCHOOL AND THEN, WITHOUT REPORTING FOR CLASSES, SET TO WORK ON THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY IN NEARBY COMMUNITIES -- PROBLEMS THAT MORE AND MORE EXPERTS ARE COMING TO REALIZE ARE VITALLY CONNECTED WITH THE HEAVY INCIDENCE OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND MANY OTHER HANDICAPS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE. THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN FUTURE YEARS IS UP TO STUDENTS, FACULTIES AND ADMINISTRATORS OF OTHER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE POTENTIAL NUMBER IS ENORMOUS AND THAT PARTICIPATION WILL DO IMMEASURABLE GOOD NOT ONLY FOR THE POVERTY COMMUNITIES SERVICED, BUT FOR THE PARTICIPATING STUDENTS AND INSTITUTIONS. FOR, BY JOINING "UNIVERSITY YEAR FOR ACTION", UNIVERSITIES CAN LOOSEN THEIR GRIP ON THEIR STUDENTS, TEAR DOWN THE WALLS THAT KEEP THE STUDENTS IN AND THE GREATER WORLD OUT, AND BREAK THE ISOLATION WHICH HAS SEPARATED SO MANY CAMPUSES FROM THE BROADER COMMUNITY IN RECENT YEARS.

- VOLUNTEER HEALTH SERVICE -

"UNIVERSITY YEAR FOR ACTION" WILL ENABLE MEDICAL STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA TO DELIVER HEALTH SERVICES TO MIGRANT LABORERS; BUSINESS MAJORS FROM PEPPERDINE COLLEGE TO HELP BLACK OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESSES SUCCEED IN WATTS; AND EDUCATION STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TO HELP INDIANS IN SOUTH DAKOTA DEVELOP THEIR OWN UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

AND WHILE DOING ALL THIS, STUDENTS WILL NOT BE DELAYING THEIR OWN CAREERS, BUT WILL BE ENRICHING THEM WITH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. FULL ACADEMIC CREDIT UP TO 30 HOURS WILL BE AWARDED FOR A FULL YEAR'S VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

- LIVING COSTS COVERED -

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS WILL RECEIVE A MODEST SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE, VARYING WITH COMMUNITY LIVING COSTS. THE AVERAGE MONTHLY ALLOWANCE WILL BE \$185. THE VOLUNTEERS ALSO RECEIVE PAID MEDICAL INSURANCE.

BUT FOR MANY STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY MARRIED STUDENTS WITH FAMILIES OR STUDENTS WHO HAVE NO FINANCIAL RESOURCES, PARTICIPATION WILL MEAN A REAL PERSONAL FINANCIAL SACRIFICE. THE VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK FULL TIME AND ARE PROHIBITED FROM SECURING PART-TIME OR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT.

TO MITIGATE THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FOR STUDENTS WHO OTHERWISE WOULD RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP AID OR WHO RELY ON PART-TIME AND SUMMER EMPLOYMENT TO FINANCE THEIR EDUCATION, ACTION WILL SET ASIDE \$50 A MONTH IN ESCROW TO BE PAID TO THESE VOLUNTEERS ON COMPLETION OF 12 MONTHS SERVICE IN THE PROGRAM.

- ALL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE -

ANY STUDENT, UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE, ENROLLED IN A PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITY IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM. THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF WILL SEEK OUT WORK ASSIGNMENTS IN POVERTY AREAS, LOOKING TO THE POVERTY ORGANIZATIONS AND LOW-INCOME PEOPLE THEMSELVES TO DEFINE THE AREAS WHERE ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.

- NATIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER -

ALL OF THESE OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED POSSESS THE SAME GOAL -- A REALIZATION OF THE FULL POTENTIAL OF ALL THE HANDICAPPED. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NOT PRESENTLY AVAILABLE A SINGLE SOURCE TO WHICH A DISABLED PERSON CAN TURN AND BE REASONABLY SURE THAT HE CAN GET HIS QUESTIONS ANSWERED OR ROUTED TO THOSE PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP SOLVE HIS PROBLEM.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A POINT OF CONTACT FOR INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AND CITY AND STATE OFFICIALS WHO SEEK INFORMATION OR DIRECTION REGARDING THE HANDICAPPED, I PROPOSED A NATIONAL RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTER. THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO MY PROPOSAL FOR THIS CENTER HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. THE REACTION FROM GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE CITIZENS, AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS FIELD WAS OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE. IN THE 91ST CONGRESS THE SENATE PASSED THE BILL TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER, BUT THE HOUSE WAS UNABLE TO COMPLETE ITS ACTION. I HAVE REINTRODUCED THE PROPOSAL THIS YEAR AS SENATE BILL 41, AND CONGRESSMAN CHARLES BENNETT OF FLORIDA HAS INTRODUCED A COMPANION BILL IN THE HOUSE. H.R. 8395, THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ACT, ALSO CONTAINS THE EXACT PROVISIONS OF MY ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR THE CENTER. I ANTICIPATE EQUALLY ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT IN THE 92ND CONGRESS AND LOOK FOR PASSAGE IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE.

SUCH LEGISLATION HAS OVERWHELMING SIGNIFICANCE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK TO SERVE THEM. IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR OUR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS, WE MUST BE ON GUARD TO SEE THAT OUR EFFORTS AND MONEY ARE DIRECTED TO THE POINT OF GREATEST NEED. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INFORMATION CENTER TO CONSOLIDATE THE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICES FOR THE HANDICAPPED. THESE RESOURCES MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HANDICAPPED IN THE FORM THEY CAN USE AND AT THE TIME THEY MOST NEED THEM. PRESENTLY, THERE IS A CRUCIAL LACK OF COORDINATION AND CENTRALLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION, FOR EXAMPLE, ON INFORMATION ABOUT REHABILITATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES. MUCH THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH CARE, ECONOMIC AID, AND MANY OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS.

WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES TO RESTORE MANY MORE OF THE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED TO PRODUCTIVE LIVES. THE TRAGEDY LIES IN THE FACT THAT FEW AMERICANS ARE AWARE OF THE CAPABILITIES AND SERVICES OF MODERN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED. THEY ARE ALSO UNAWARE OF THE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC LOSS THIS IGNORANCE IMPOSES.

- IMMEASURABLE BENEFITS -

THIS EXISTING CAVITY CAN BE FILLED BY THE INFORMATION CENTER. IT IS AN ANSWER TO A CONCRETE AND WIDELY RECOGNIZED NEED. RATHER THAN DUPLICATE THE FUNCTIONS OF PROGRAMS IN EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTORS, ITS FUNCTIONS WILL BE THE COORDINATION OF THE MULTIFARIOUS INFORMATION RELATING TO ALL PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT THE HANDICAPPED.

THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS IN THE HANDICAPPED MINORITY WILL BE THE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF THE CENTER'S SERVICES. AMERICA WILL BE THE ULTIMATE BENEFICIARY THROUGH INCREASED CONTRIBUTION, WELL-BEING, AND PERSONAL FULFILLMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED.