

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1992

I am delighted to send warm greetings to all those who are gathered in Washington, D.C. for the 45th Annual Meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 marked a great victory for our entire Nation. By requiring the elimination of barriers that, in the past, have prevented many Americans with disabilities from participating fully in the social and economic mainstream of our society, this law will open doors of opportunity to millions of our citizens. At the same time, as more and more persons with disabilities enter and advance in the workplace, all of us will benefit from the contribution of their knowledge, talents, and skills.

The theme of your meeting, "Full and Harmonious Compliance with the ADA," underscores your commitment to the implementation of both the letter and the spirit of this historic legislation. As members of the Committee well know, the ADA is not meant to be an impetus for excessive government regulation and years of costly litigation -- although it certainly provides due legal recourse for victims of discrimination and injustice. Rather, our goal is to make equal opportunity for persons with disabilities a cherished principle in the United States, as well as nationwide policy and practice. The ultimate success of the ADA will require the sustained cooperation of government, business, advocacy groups, and persons with disabilities, and I salute all of you for helping to make the promise of the ADA a reality.

Barbara joins me in sending best wishes for a successful meeting.

