

REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, U. S. REPRESENTATIVE, SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND AT THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE DAVIS MEMORIAL GOODWILL INDUSTRIES IN THE CONGRESSIONAL ROOM OF THE HOTEL STATLER, WASHINGTON, D. C. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1958 AT 12:30 P.M.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, professional and volunteer workers of the Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries, friends of the handicapped, I am very happy to be with you today, because it is almost like being home with my own constituents in Rhode Island. As you know, a politician (and I consider politics one of the most necessary and honorable professions), is always hard put to turn down a speaking invitation within his own Congressional District. And, although we are not in Rhode Island, I feel that I am talking with a special constituency, those interested in the handicapped.

As you have been told, since 1946 I have acquired a special group of constituents -- those who are dedicated to giving greater equality of opportunity to those among us who because of birth, accident or disease have become handicapped. The House Sub-Committee on Appropriations which I have the honor to chair has consistently sought new and imaginative ways of waging war on disability. We have enlisted for the duration of this conflict and I can pledge to this audience the continued interest, enthusiasm and legislative support of programs which seek to change disability into ability, to remove certain indignities under which some handicapped today must labor and to guarantee, insofar as it is possible in this imperfect old world of ours, that the men, women and children whom God in His infinite wisdom has chosen to suffer mental or physical affliction

may do so with a maximum of dignity and a minimum of suffering, neglect or misunderstanding.

I am indeed pleased to accept your kind invitation because it gives me an opportunity both to compliment Goodwill on the excellent work it has been doing these past few years and also to tell you about a new piece of legislation which should be of interest to all who work with and for the mentally and physically handicapped of our great country. The volunteer spirit so well exemplified by your fine Board of Directors and Ladies Auxiliary is one of the great things about our beloved country and through you I wish to pay tribute to the more than one hundred and twenty local Goodwill Industries throughout the Nation who have been in the forefront of this modern crusade for greater equality of opportunity for the handicapped.

Since passage of Public Law 565, The Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments Act of 1954, as amended in 1956, 48 Goodwill Industries in 23 states have received Federal funds totaling \$855,193. In order to receive these funds under the grant expansion program, local Goodwill agencies with community support have poured an additional \$432,000 into this program which has helped give a new dynamism and imagination to work for the handicapped.

According to a report prepared by your national headquarters, the results have been dramatic and have proven that the effort was well worth the cost in time and talent. We in the Congress are sometimes accused of being overly concerned with statistics and with figures, but those of us who are responsible for saying "yes" or "no" to these new pieces of legislation as they come along are

always confirmed in our enthusiasm when we see such reports as yours, stating that between September, 1955 and September, 1957 the 48 Goodwill Industries receiving assistance grants showed an increase of 26% in the number of handicapped persons served, at a time when other Goodwill Industries were increasing services by only 16%.

Of course, we who live here in the Washington area are all aware of the wonderful new Rehabilitation Center which Goodwill has built to better serve the area and the Nation under provisions of Public Law 565. Perhaps less generally known to this audience is the establishment in other areas of nine sheltered workshops, nine special projects to better serve the severely disabled (too long the forgotten people in this field), and the expansion of services by some 30 local Goodwill Industries through acquisition of vitally needed equipment. I have summed up much of the progress in a single paragraph when I could have spoken for hours on what this means to people and to our country.

However, dramatic as has been the progress of the past, we must ever look to the future. In summary, I should like to quote from the last paragraph in the introduction of your Goodwill Industries of America Report for it best expresses my own reaction and that of my fellow colleagues on the Hill. Your Report says in summary, "this is indeed a magnificent example of government and community cooperation working successfully to meet an ever increasing challenge to serve the Nation's handicapped."

But, now to the future. On February 10 of this year I had the great honor to introduce in the present Congress, H.R. 10608, a bill proposing The Rehabilitation Act of 1958. As you know,

we generally try to explain the purpose of legislation in the first paragraph of a Bill. This particular bill is 21 pages in length and the first paragraph reads as follows:

"To provide evaluation of rehabilitation potentials and rehabilitation services to handicapped individuals who as a result thereof can achieve such ability of independent living as to dispense with or largely dispense with the need of an attendant at home, to assist in the establishment of public and private nonprofit workshops and rehabilitation facilities, and for other purposes."

I can almost hear my friends in the audience whispering, "what a mouthful!" However, the key words in this all-inclusive paragraph are those which trigger the three major sections of the bill, namely, "independent living", "workshops and rehabilitation facilities" and "evaluation services." I'd like to share with you some comments and ideas on each of these sections because they have great meaning to Goodwill Industries and, in time, could well be as vital and meaningful for your local industries as have been certain sections of Public Law 565.

First, I'd like to highlight the five findings of fact which serve as background material for those considering this legislation and for the state and local groups which must understand and implement it. The Congress has found, through expert testimony and its own staff research that:

1. Many severely handicapped persons, including the mentally ill or retarded, and older persons, now ineligible for vocational rehabilitation, as a result of independent living rehabilitation services can achieve such a degree of independence that institutional care can be terminated, need for attendant's

care at home can be ended or substantially reduced and, in many instances, these individuals will be found to be capable of vocational rehabilitation and will become gainfully employed.

2. Independent living rehabilitation services ends or minimizes the public and family burden, contributed to dignity and self-respect and is in the public interest.

3. There is a grave shortage of rehabilitation facilities where independent living and vocational rehabilitation services are provided the severely handicapped.

4. There is a grave shortage of sheltered workshop facilities wherein work capacities of severely handicapped can be evaluated and developed, and can also be utilized in productive work.

5. Federal grants for the above facilities and services are required in the public interest as a necessary expansion of present grants under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act.

As you can see, the Congress hopes to do something specific and special for the severely handicapped and to do it as a reasonable extension of present services, under existing Federal-State programs and in a manner which will make it possible for local groups to undertake additional steps in this partnership of "government and community cooperation."

At the time H.R. 10608 was introduced, I said that states would be able, when the bill was enacted, to rehabilitate people to enable them to achieve a level of independent living so as to dispense with institutional care or attendant care at home. I feel that freeing such disabled people of their physical dependence

on institutions or their families will not only contribute to their personal dignity and self-respect, but also sharply cut the high costs that many communities are encountering in taking care of their disabled.

Independence has long been a hallmark of America. We were founded on a Declaration of Independence and we have grown and prospered and increased in world leadership as we maintained our own independence and helped assure our friends in the world community of Nations of their continued independence insofar as we were able. Shall we have two kinds of independence in our country -- one for the able-bodied and another for the handicapped? I think not and for this reason I am hopeful that the public will understand what this bill does and that the Congress will write a new Declaration of Independence for the handicapped in enacting this legislation. It has been many months on the drawing boards and has passed through the hands of many of the most distinguished professionals in and out of government as we worked to perfect a document which can mean so much to so many.

Our Founding Fathers were writing as much for 1958 as for 1776 when they said "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

There can be little "life, liberty" or "pursuit of happiness" for many Americans who today live under the bondage of severe disability. It is our hope that through the independent living provisions of H.R. 10608 we can help assure a greater

"equality" and a greater enjoyment of those "unalienable rights" which belong to all Americans, including the severely disabled.

The independent living rehabilitation services section would appropriate ten million dollars this fiscal year and twenty million dollars next fiscal year so you can see that it is a program of substance and one which may provide a major break-through in local services to the severely handicapped, a break-through I might say that cannot come too soon!

Many public and private groups are now taking admitted "long shots" in providing rehabilitation services to severely handicapped persons, gambling that the end result will be competitive employment. This bill will lessen administrative pressures on those making decisions and enable findings to be made based more upon justice rather than possible employment. For who among us in work with and for the handicapped can't name person after person who, after being declared non-feasible by competent authority on the basis of the best facts available, has confounded all the experts and gone forward with indomitable spirit and proved feasibility by actually going out and getting a job and making good at it?

Medicine is not yet an exact science. Counseling is not yet, nor will it ever be, the final answer to inner motivations. The human spirit has yet to be measured exactly in individual cases, probably because there is a spark of Divinity in all of us and who can measure God at work in His creatures? So, we propose to make it possible to provide services to men and women to enable them to free themselves from institutions and from hourly dependence upon heroic family ministrations, while

at the same time cutting local costs of institutions and freeing the dedicated families of all or part of the crippling burden of waiting hand and foot upon their loved ones for want of the modern, almost miraculous, medicine of vocational rehabilitation.

Under the third title, "Workshops and Rehabilitation Facilities", the bill provides ten million this year, twelve and one half million next year and fifteen million dollars for the year ending June 30, 1961. Like the other title, the bill provides for additional sums as decided upon by other Congresses.

As you know, the Hill-Burton bill which was proven such a boon to our care for the crippled and disabled, is medically or hospital-oriented. This title would be community-oriented and would emphasize vocational aspects rather than medical. Thus, it is a logical extension of Hill-Burton and would put on a permanent basis one of the lapsed provisions of Public Law 565 which made it possible to partially finance some workshops and rehabilitation facilities. This construction section allows more elasticity to the States and makes it possible to provide more communities with workshops serving the severely disabled. This particular section could be more helpful to Goodwill than that part of Public Law 565 which was previously mentioned, the grant expansion program, for you could obtain matching funds for expansion or development of workshops.

The last major title of the bill provides for rehabilitation evaluation services. This will be a Godsend to the handicapped and also a great time-saver to the community once it is tried and understood for it short cuts the agonizing trail of the handicapped from agency to agency, from referral to referral each with its duplication

of questions, forms, findings and evaluations. It makes possible a central referral point where diagnostic and other services are done but once, probably in greater detail for better results both to the client and the community agencies which are trying to serve him. We hope to speed up treatment through better referrals based on better findings at great savings in professional time and talent and considerable lessening of the wearing and tearing process to the footsore and heartweary handicapped person who trudges from referral to referral trying vainly to find where he is eligible, where he has rights, where he is non-feasible and where he can get services.

This provision also should be of real interest to Goodwill Industries across the Nation for you could expand your present vocational evaluation work for the severely disabled, and, as you know, many self-help clients are useful and valuable prospects for your workshops or home-bound programs. In going into this program, you would be helping materially in raising the standards of present evaluation services in many areas, in saving local tax and contributed money by making information available to interested agencies without making them dig for it and by generally increasing the professional competence of all workers in this important field.

In conclusion, I should like to compliment the Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries upon another year of magnificent service to the Washington area. I was fortunate to have an advance copy of your Annual Report and I was thrilled at your past year of progress, at your modern rehabilitation center, and at the promise of greater service when your new building is finished in time for this annual meeting next year. I am particularly struck by the quotation by Betsy Barton

in your report where she says "Freedom of spirit, freedom withⁱⁿ... is the most important freedom of all." That certainly summarizes the feeling of the Congress as we devote ourselves to assuring a new birth of freedom for the severely handicapped.

And, I would be remiss in the presence of officers and staff members of Goodwill Industries of America whose advice and counsel have been so generously given to the Congress and to me personally, if I did not also pay tribute here before the bar of public opinion to the splendid work done by Goodwill throughout the Nation as graphically outlined in your recent 1957 report. I was particularly impressed to read that 18 per cent of the persons you helped in 1957 were among the mentally and emotionally handicapped and more than 14 per cent were aged and infirm. Here you have been true to your mission, a mission based upon compassion and humanity and one for which you are to publicly commended.

As we work together, the Congress and the States and the public and private organizations of this country, we shall help provide the handicapped of our Nation with a new birth of freedom, a new declaration of independence. And, in the concluding words of the Declaration of Independence, "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence", I ask that you who work with and for the handicapped so devotedly join with members of Congress in pledging "to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor", that the handicapped of America may truly enjoy "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."