

Being revised

ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY,
MEMBER OF THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
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Miss Switzer, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen: I am indeed pleased to have this opportunity to address so distinguished a gathering of scientists and leaders in work for the blind from this country and from abroad.

At this point, I want to express my personal appreciation to all of you -- especially the scientists -- for taking time to focus your knowledge and thinking on ways to apply our rapidly increasing accumulation of scientific and technological skill and know-how to the problems of those among us who must make their way in life handicapped by lack of sight and perhaps by loss of hearing as well. In glancing over the program of your conference this week, I was impressed by your approach to the problems you are considering. But most of all, I was impressed by the basic theme which has pervaded this conference -- How can we use our knowledge and skill to help our fellow man?

I recently heard the great contemporary historian, Arnold Toynbee, quoted as saying that this century will be remembered as the century of man's humanity to man.

With his perspective as a historian, Toynbee says this, despite the fact that this century has already witnessed two great wars and numerous smaller wars in which millions of our fellow human beings have been killed or maimed. He says this, knowing that the remaining 38 years of this century is a period in human history during which mankind will continue to develop even more efficient instruments of mass destruction than are now at hand.

From a truly objective scientific standpoint, you and I know that it will take the Arnold Toynbee of the 24th or 25th Century to characterize the 20th Century and verify the prediction of our contemporary Mr. Toynbee. But I prefer to look at this from a subjective standpoint and say now that we are living in the century of man's humanity to man.

From where I stand, I would say that there is ample evidence to support this, the best evidence being the growth of organized effort on a worldwide basis to eradicate disease and improve the condition of the disabled. Your presence here this week is certainly indicative of the concern which you as individuals and which your respective countries feel about ways of assisting people with sensory deprivation.

Just three weeks ago, I returned from Geneva, where I attended the Fifteenth World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization as Congressional adviser to the United States delegation. I served in this same capacity at the three preceding assemblies of the World Health Organization; and as a result, I have had an opportunity to learn of the progress being made through the assistance of this specialized organization of the United Nations in the eradication of major killing and crippling diseases which plague many parts of the world.

Fortunately, many of these diseases are completely or virtually unknown in the United States, Canada, and the European countries. But in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, they still constitute serious problems -- sometimes of staggering proportions. For example, trachoma is still a major cause of blindness in North

Africa and in the Near and Middle East. As a result of river blindness (onchocerciasis), virtually the entire population of some villages in tropical Africa is blind or nearly blind. Cataracts, a leading cause of blindness in the United States, affects only a handful of people here in comparison to the staggering number blinded by this condition in India.

Through the research effort of scientists in our respective countries, and through the combined effort of the nations participating in the World Health Organization and in the UN Technical Assistance Administration, the cause, prevention, and cure of many of these diseases are being sought, found, and applied. And for the many whose blindness cannot be miraculously cured, whose lost limbs cannot adequately be replaced, the same cooperative effort to develop and to apply techniques of rehabilitation goes forward. The voluntary organizations working in the international field, the growing government-to-government relationships in this area, the supranational agencies like the UNTAA and the International Labor Organization -- all are making singular contributions to the betterment of mankind and, thereby, to the improvement of relationships between all of the peoples of the world.

For when it comes to preventing death, to curing disease, to mitigating the handicapping effects of disability - there are no barriers of geography, of custom, of language. There is only the pervasive effect of love for one's fellow man, which transcends all of the artificial and superficial barriers to human understanding which have arisen. Truly, it is man's humanity to man which will

create the peaceful world we so fervently long for.

As many of you know, I have had the privilege of being a frontline participant in our national effort to conquer the killing and crippling diseases of man and to restore the physically and mentally disabled to lives of usefulness and productivity. My specific contribution during the past fifteen years as a member -- and for most of that time as the Chairman -- of the Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Department of Labor and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare of the U. S. House of Representatives has been to evaluate requests for funds from these agencies to carry out their extensive programs -- programs which touch the life of every American.

For approximately eight weeks of thorough hearings, my colleagues and I receive the testimony of expert witnesses in and out of government on the portion of the annual budget of the United States covering the cost of financing these vital programs, which include many of the research activities carried on with Federal funds in government installations, universities and other private facilities. By far the largest appropriation we are called upon to make covers the intramural and extramural research programs of the National Institutes of Health. We also process the appropriations for the research programs administered by the Office of Education, the Social Security Administration, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. I understand that the project which is culminating in this conference has in part been financed with a grant from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

In a very real sense, my specialty in research has become the funding of it. I am sure that the term "funding of research" is not completely unfamiliar to you.

But to forestall a stampede to the rostrum when I sit down, let me hasten to add that we in the Congress make the funds available to the various government agencies, which have established procedures for receiving and processing applications for grants.

I have been particularly gratified by the growth and development of government-supported research related to the health sciences and the rehabilitation of the disabled. Ten years ago, for example, the total appropriation for the National Institutes of Health was \$59,030,750. For the fiscal year which begins July 1, the House of Representatives has voted an appropriation of \$840,800,000.

Ten years ago, the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness was just getting under way as a result of an Act of Congress establishing it. For the coming fiscal year, the House of Representatives has voted \$77,506,000 for this Institute.

The research and demonstration program of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has made some significant contributions to the development of techniques for the rehabilitation of the severely disabled. For the coming fiscal year, the House has approved an appropriation of \$10,200,000 for this important program.

All of these research activities -- and those funded through the programs of the National Science Foundation, the Veterans Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense -- which are handled by other subcommittees of the House Committee on Appropriations -- all have significant contributions to make in a very real and practical way to the

to the purpose for which you have come together here this week. As a matter of fact, I understand that the National Science Foundation has helped to make this conference possible by a direct grant to the American Foundation for the Blind.

I don't have to tell this group how advances resulting from research in the technological sciences have made possible advances in the biological sciences, including major break-throughs in basic physiology and human heredity. More than ever before, even as every field of science continues to fractionate into highly specialized components, an interdisciplinary approach in every aspect of scientific research is essential.

In some fields, the problem is to make all of the specialists who can contribute aware of the need, so that they can focus their own particular skill and knowledge on ways of arriving at solutions. And at this point, I would like to compliment the leaders of the American Foundation for the Blind -- Mr. Noyes and Mr. Barnett -- and the staff of this organization for the part they are playing in doing just this with regard to the problems of blind persons.

In research, the by-products are frequently as important as the principle objective of a study. As studies go forward to assist those without sight to learn how to compensate for this and make more efficient use of their remaining senses, with and without technological instrumentation, new information which will make more effectively functioning human beings of us all will undoubtedly result.

As we continue to learn better ways of prolonging life, we tend to create problems of a sociological nature -- how to make it possible for the growing

proportion of aged persons in our population to lead full and satisfying lives; how to utilize the skills and productive capacity of the physically and mentally handicapped among us, so that they can lead full and satisfying lives. In a society like ours, these should be happy problems. In fact, they shouldn't be called problems at all. For the true measure of any society is the way in which it deals with people -- people who may be disadvantaged for any reason. And therefore, what we as a people acting together do to help those among us who are old or disabled or both to help themselves is rather an expression of love for our fellow human beings -- not a problem.

Over the past twenty years, we have made tremendous strides through the partnership of Federal, State, and voluntary effort to assist the physically disabled to take their proper place as contributing individuals in our society -- and I underscore the word individuals, just as each of you and I are individuals. We are getting away from custodial concepts of care for the handicapped. Concepts which reeked of rejection rather than acceptance. But we still have a long way to go.

We are only just beginning to see the true potentialities of individuals who happen to be mentally retarded or who happen to have multiple severe disabilities. But we are making progress, and I can assure you that I will continue to do all I can whenever it appears that action by the Congress of the United States is needed.

I am sure that all of you have found the exchange of viewpoints and ideas which has taken place here this week helpful. I hope that upon returning to your respective laboratories and agencies, you will continue to think about the

problems you have discussed and approach them with a renewed sense of how valuable their solution will be. And above all, I hope that you will keep in close touch with each other, now that you are aware of your mutual interest.

All of us -- the medical specialists, the biological scientists, the physical scientists, the technologists, the social scientists, the educators, the administrators, and the legislators -- have a vital part to play in improving the lives of our fellow human beings -- especially those who are handicapped. I know from personal observation how valiantly these individuals are striving to overcome their handicap and win acceptance as contributing members of society.

If each of us will recognize that these are the normal aspirations of normal individuals who happen to be living under abnormal circumstances -- if each of us will conscientiously apply his own particular kind of skill and knowledge toward the goal of counteracting or minimizing these abnormal circumstances -- then we will be able to say that we have really done our part to make this century truly the century of man's humanity to man.