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Pine Rest

Speech?
1964

A B E T T E R H E R I T A G E

I can think of no better way to open my remarks this evening than to repeat the story with which Mr. Stanley S. Kresge concluded his address at your second annual banquet one year ago. Mr. Kresge said,

" I am reminded of the story of the great Roman Emperor Hadrian finding an aged man planting olive trees. Since olive trees grow so slowly, Hadrian said to the man, 'Old man, these trees will not bear fruit for many years. Do you expect to be alive to eat the fruit of your labor?' The old man looked up and said, 'If God wills, I shall eat--and if not, my son will eat. My father and his father before him planted trees that I might have fruit. It is my duty, then, to provide for those who shall come after me.'"

It is only because you are building for tomorrow and not just for today that you have joined with others in support of Pine Rest Foundation. Because you are dedicated to a better and greater heritage for those who follow, you are giving unselfishly of time, money and effort to bring help on a private, personal basis to those who carry the burden of mental illness.



It seems to me that Pine Rest Christian Hospital and the Pine Rest Foundation ^{are} ~~will be~~ excellent examples of local and private assumption of responsibility. They represent the answer to those of us who know that more and more control from Washington and greater centralization of power in the federal government can only weaken the American system and the status of the people who make up our great country. Pine Rest Hospital and Pine Rest Foundation represent a practice of the principles we endorse and a solution to the problems we decry.

Last year Mr. Kresge spoke on "The Price of Distinctiveness." It was well that he emphasized the price because certainly to be distinctive, to hold to sound principle, to refuse to go along with the crowd does extract its price. We should be extremely thankful that through the years and still today there are thousands of Americans who are willing to pay this price. They're willing to pay the price because they are sincerely convinced that they must leave to those who come after "a better heritage."

However, as one who devotes most of his working hours to activities of the federal government I am intently interested with you in those aspects of its work which bear upon responsibilities assumed by Pine Rest Christian Hospital and the Pine Rest Foundation.



The House of Representatives recently passed an appropriation bill including \$188 million for the National Institute of Mental Health. During the next fiscal year this Institute will make grants for research, fellowships, training and state-controlled programs costing over \$164 million.

We always trust that these enormous amounts for research and training will pay off in intelligent results. The Congress was told ^{that} for the 8th consecutive year the resident population in the nation's state and county mental hospitals decreased. The 1963 figure of 504,947 resident patients represents a decrease of 2.1% from the 1962 figure. Since the downward trend began in 1956 there has been a reduction of 54,000, or 9.7%, in hospital population.

On the other hand, admissions continued to rise. From 267,000 in 1962 to 285,000 in 1963 -- a jump of 6.8% of total admissions. This upward trend began in the mid 1940s. There has been an increase, therefore, in the number of net releases from these institutions. Moreover, as the committee handling the appropriation bill pointed out, "much of this gratifying decline in the mental hospital population has resulted from intelligent therapeutic regimens which together with the development of community services permit



handling of patients in the communities rather than in the large State and County institutions." It is obvious, therefore, that the overall problem of mental disease is still with us and presents a serious challenge to every community.

In discussing the new community mental health centers authorized by the Congress last year, Dr. Robert H. Felix, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, asked and answered a significant question. He said,

How can all the States, regions and communities—the public officials, the private agencies, the professionals in the psychiatric field, the non-psychiatric physicians, the educators and the clergy--collaborate to plan, sponsor and administer the centers and provide a strong treatment sequence? They can do so only if the civic minded citizens who set the patterns of community action demand that they do so and provide the support which they must have to secure financing, operational funds and a working cooperation among all the professional disciplines involved.

It seems to me this is what those who have supported Pine Rest in the past and at the present have been doing since Pine Rest was established over 50 years ago.



The Congress last year adopted legislation to assist in the construction of comprehensive community mental health centers. Working in cooperation with the state government it was hoped this program would provide an impetus for local communities to work with a program for prevention, detection and treatment of emotional disturbances and mental illnesses at a local level. Michigan has joined the states (about 18 in number) which have passed legislation to participate in this program. It would seem to me that Pine Rest is in an excellent position to serve as a base of one of these centers for our community. I don't know whether officials of the Hospital are working on this sort of a project but I am certain they are familiar with what is being done.

In this connection I would like to mention the status of legislation which I introduced in the last Congress and in the present Congress on behalf of Pine Rest. As most of you know, under present law a recipient of old age assistance who comes to Pine Rest for care loses his payments under old age assistance. This means that a greater burden is placed on those who must support him. If the individual should go to a state institution, of course, the ~~burden is removed~~ *public assistance continues.*

*Forced
 Dept. of
 Social Serv. in M.R.
 (copy enclosed) 3/3
 Bob Harker
 will
 have
 further
 info
 M
 W*



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On February 26th the Assistant Secretary of H.E.W. Wilbur Cohen said in a letter "We are in the process of developing reports on H.R. 483 and other bills related to care in institutions that have been requested by the Committee on Ways and Means. As soon as these are submitted to the Committee, a copy of our report on H.R. 483 will be sent to you."

One of our good friends here in Kent County in public welfare work who knows Mr. Cohen very well wrote me after hearing of this promise and said, "Just between us, I don't think we should hold our breath waiting for Cohen to do anything favorable in this matter... I have long



viewed Cohen as a 'Statist' who would prefer not to let private welfare agencies do anything that public welfare can't do more expensively and more bureaucratically."

It is this sort of attitude on the part of too many in authority today which thoroughly discourages those who are dedicated to private and personal care of the unfortunate. They would increase the power of the impersonal state rather than to leave for those who follow "the better heritage."

The Report of the Appropriations Committee on the National Institute of Mental Health said, among other things,

"In the past year alone there has been a 13% increase in the number of juveniles brought before the courts by police officers throughout the country.

" Witnesses appearing before the committee this year contended that the present sums allocated by the National Institute of Mental Health for research, training and demonstration projects in the field of juvenile delinquency are far from sufficient to meet the newly awakened interest in this field."



It is unfortunate, I think, that so many people - some in positions of considerable influence - insist that our problems of juvenile delinquency will be solved by the expenditure of more and more money. Certain facilities which money can buy may help to combat juvenile delinquency but the basic causes and solutions run far deeper. The same spirit and attitude which compels individuals and groups to support Pine Rest Christian Hospital and Pine Rest Foundation is desperately needed across our country if we are to make a major gain in the campaign against juvenile delinquency. This includes personal responsibility, personal care and involvement, personal sacrifice, all rooted in a personal religious conviction in which we accept the responsibilities of Christian people. A better heritage will only be insyred when we are willing to take the hard way, when we are ready to follow principles rather than expediency.

these following are in outline form - involve "A Better Heritage"

- I. Right now the House of Representatives, and especially the Committee on the Judiciary, is examining a fundamental issue arising out of the Supreme Court decision on the use of the Bible and the Lord's Prayer in schools.



1. **Problem**
2. **Solution**
3. **Personal views**

II. **Another committee - on Post Office and Civil Service - is this week going to take up another question with implications for a better heritage when it discussed a bill to make it more difficult to send obscene materials through the mails.**

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Meaning for "a better heritage" if you wish to discuss this.

IV **Defense and International Relations.**

Possibly a few personal comments on your observations relative to these subjects in the preservation of "a better heritage."



V. Fiscal Responsibility

- 1. deficit financing and increased public debt.
- 2. the moral implications thereof.
- 3. and the clamor for more and more government activity in spending.

Oswald - 1. Product of a broken home
 2. Born of an unstable mother
 3. Evidence he was mentally ill ^{suicide} _{by school}

VI. Conclusion

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