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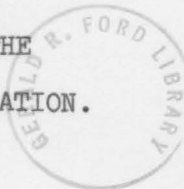
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KENT COUNTY ASSN. OF RETARDED CHILDREN DINNER DANCE
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, 1972, Grand Rapids, Mich.

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE TREMENDOUS WORK YOU ARE DOING, DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

I AM ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, AND I FEEL YOU CAN BE VERY PROUD OF YOURSELVES.

PERHAPS I SHOULD TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS DOING REGARDING MENTAL RETARDATION.



KCARC 2/19/72

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WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, A PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION.

THE COMMITTEE, IN ITS LATEST REPORT, MAKES WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE A VERY SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT. THAT STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"WHEN AND HOW AND WHERE LEARNING TAKES PLACE CAN SPELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SO-CALLED NORMAL AND THE SO-CALLED MENTALLY RETARDED CHILD, WHEN THERE IS NO PHYSICAL BASIS FOR THE RETARDATION."



THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT, OR ECOLOGY, IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN MENTAL DEVELOPMENT . . . AND THE COMMITTEE GOES ON TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT . . .

. . . "THAT THE UNIVERSITIES BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM AND ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR A NEW KIND OF COLLEGE DEVOTED TO HUMAN ECOLOGY," AND . . .

"THAT GOVERNMENTAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES APPLY AND COORDINATE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY TOWARD A DECISIVE REDUCTION IN MENTAL RETARDATION." * * * * *

THE HEALTH-EDUCATION-AND-WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING HARD IN THE AREA OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

ON OCTOBER 30, 1970, THE PRESIDENT SIGNED INTO LAW THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION ACT, AIMED AT EXPANDING AND EXTENDING A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY H.E.W. THAT WORK IS BEING CARRIED FORWARD.

MORE THAN 35,700 MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS WERE REHABILITATED ^{FISCAL} IN 1971 THROUGH THE FEDERALLY-ADMINISTERED VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

APPROXIMATELY 44,000 MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES RECEIVED SERVICES PROVIDED BY CLINICS SUPPORTED BY H.E.W.'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICE.

MORE THAN 150,000 MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS SUPPORTED IN PART BY FEDERAL FUNDS.

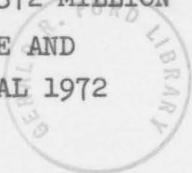
TO DATE, 370 MENTAL RETARDATION COMMUNITY FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED. THESE PROJECTS WILL SERVE AN ESTIMATED 95,000 RETARDED PERSONS.



64,000 MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN WERE SERVED IN STATE-SUPPORTED SCHOOLS, A PROGRAM INVOLVING A FEDERAL OUTLAY OF \$22 MILLION.

THE CHALLENGE OF MENTAL RETARDATION WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PRIMARY ATTENTION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

TOTAL H.E.W. OBLIGATIONS FOR MENTAL RETARDATION ACTIVITIES THIS FISCAL YEAR COME TO \$668,419,000, INCLUDING \$372 MILLION FOR GRANTS AND SERVICES AND \$296 MILLION FOR INCOME AND MAINTENANCE. THE TOTAL OF \$668.4 MILLION FOR FISCAL 1972



RUNS \$44.4 MILLION HIGHER THAN THE \$624 MILLION EARMARKED FOR H.E.W. MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAMS IN FISCAL 1971 AND \$112 MILLION ABOVE THE \$556.3 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR SUCH PROGRAMS IN FISCAL 1970.

SO YOU CAN SEE WE ARE NOT LYING DOWN ON THE JOB AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. WE ARE WITH YOU. WE ARE DETERMINED TO HELP YOU SUCCEED. WE WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE THE GREAT OBJECTIVES YOU HAVE SET FOR YOURSELVES. THANK YOU.



CARDS

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

FEB. 19, 1972

Gerald R. Ford
M.C.

7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY

KENT Co. ASSOC. OF RETARDED CHILDREN
DINNER DANCE



Michigan
Mayors

recognition

Kalamazoo
change.
