

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 5, 1975

Office of the Vice President

**REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE DEDICATION OF
JACOB W. HOLLER FAMILY MEDICINE CENTER
(Rochester, New York)**

(11:38 A.M. EDT)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Father Moynihan, I would like to express on behalf of I know everybody here deep appreciation for those beautiful words that you expressed in your invocation to me. You caught the essence of the whole feeling of this occasion and really one of the basic strengths of America is embodied in the sentiments that I think Father Moynihan expressed.

I have to say it is a great pleasure to be with your two distinguished Congressmen, and especially to be with them back in New York State and here in Rochester. They are two men I have tremendous admiration for, and I think that New York can be proud of them.

I want to thank Frank for his invitation and to give me this opportunity to come back to New York. I have to say it is a great personal pleasure for me, and especially to be in Rochester, a community which all of us admire so much and a community, as Barber said, has been a leader in so many ways: cultural, intellectual, educational, medical, and so forth.

It is sort of an ideal community in the great American tradition of the individual responsibility of citizens taking initiative for meeting the needs of their community. So that this is a special pleasure.

Then to be here with President Heisner and Dr. Farley and Ginny Miller and Mr. Stevens and so many wonderful friends that I see in the audience here. It is just a very happy occasion. It is a symbolic occasion of our basic concern as human beings for each other in this great society.

You know, it is interesting, but when some people in other parts of the country talk about excellence in medicine at Rochester, they may be thinking of Minnesota with its famous Mayo Clinic. But when New Yorkers think of medical excellence and Rochester, we are talking about this justly proud city in the Empire State. So that I am deeply grateful for the invitation and the opportunity to be here.

The Family Medical Center which we are here to dedicate today is a perfect example of that excellence and of Rochester's leadership and initiative. Frank Horton picked a theme which I would like to talk a little more about because it is a tremendously important one and this occasion lends

MORE

a unique opportunity to give it emphasis, and that is the family physician.

This Family Medical Center represents a bridge that is really a link between what was good in the medical practice in the past and what is exciting in the age of the heart transplant and space medicine.

The old country doctor who went out in sleet and storm in the dark of night to remote farm houses set the pattern for dedication and devotion to his patients. This is a marvelous American tradition. Every American family wants one physician who is like a member of the family; one physician who knows the medical history of everybody in the family; one physician who can treat a broad range of conditions; and one physician who knows best how to arrange for the specialized treatment that he or she does not provide.

This physician friend, beyond any question, is the most valued member of the medical profession in the eyes of the American family.

The need for a family doctor is as strong as ever. But let's look at what has been happening.

That is my friend down there, too. Pretty cute. I hope the television cameras focus on her for a minute.

In 1930, general practitioners and part-time specialists made up 75 percent of all the practicing physicians in the country. By 1973, this figure had declined to 16 percent of all physicians.

This situation is the result of a common occurrence. The solution of the old problems in one area creates new problems in another area. The United States is the foremost nation in science and technology. Nowhere is our creativity more evident than in medicine. But our progress made medical specialization highly attractive to medical graduate students. The result is that the first and foremost contact point in good medical care, the family doctor, has been in increasingly short supply.

Fortunately, the Nation's medical leaders recognize the seriousness of this situation, and the American Medical Association recently recommended that 50 percent of all of the U.S. medical graduates ought to go into family practice and other forms of primary care, such as pediatrics. The Academy of Family Practitioners recommends that one out of every four medical school graduates ought to go specifically into family medicine.

Fortunately, American medicine has developed a positive response to fill that need. The new specialty of family medicine has been developed. This specialty prepares the physician to provide family care after the most relevant training and in the most

modern setting. At the same time, this specialty retains the invaluable person-to-person intimacy and trust that has always existed between the general practitioner and the patient.

This program here at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and the Highland Hospital is a pioneer in this new specialty of family medicine. In fact, you were one of the first, as has already been mentioned, to get into this vital business -- five years before the Federal Government began to provide financial assistance to family medicine training.

That to me is the beauty of this country. Our free, pluralistic society encourages fresh, imaginative thinking and innovation wherever there is talent. And then, when the merit of a new idea is recognized, government can come in, give that idea support, and spread its value to other parts of the country.

This new home of your family medicine program is an inspiring example of this kind of private and public partnership in action. There is private money in the program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. There is direct support from the resources of Highland Hospital. There are Federal grants from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. And, of course, as Mr. Stevens was good enough to mention, I am delighted that the major financing for the renovation of the facility came from a State program for family medicine education which we originated while I had the honor of serving as your Governor. You made a powerful case for the need, and we were inspired to go to bat for the program.

This to me is an inspiring example of the direction America ought to be following, not only in medicine, but in solving so many of the Nation's domestic problems. Here we have a sound American tradition -- the family doctor. We also have had the experience of rapid change sweeping away the environment in which the family doctor of yesterday practiced. And here we have the best of both worlds.

The concept of the family doctor has been preserved and it has been enhanced by the new specialization of family medicine. The families of America will all rest better knowing that they can count on a concerned family physician. Thanks to centers such as the one we are here to dedicate today, they are going to have that assurance.

I would like to congratulate again all who are concerned in having originated and undertaken and brought to fruition this wonderful center. I would like to thank you again, and particularly Frank for his generosity in letting me share this occasion with you and for the pleasure of being back in New York State and in Rochester. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

END

(11:46 A.M. EDT)