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Pres. Briefings

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 21, 1975

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

Saturday, November 22, 1975

11:00 a.m. (10 minutes)

The Cabinet Room

From: Jim Cannon 

I. PURPOSE

To announce officially the calling of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, the appointment of Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., as the Chairman of the Conference, and to affirm your support of the Conference.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

Last spring you decided to call a White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, as authorized by P.L. 93-516 which you signed on December 7, 1974.

The purpose of the Conference is to:

- to stimulate a national assessment of problems faced by individuals with physical or mental handicaps;
- to generate a national awareness of those problems; and
- to develop recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to allow individuals with handicaps to live their lives independently, with dignity, and with integration into community life.

Many handicapped persons will participate in this conference. Handicapped persons are on the National Planning and Advisory Council, and the planning staff

and will comprise at least half the delegates to the National Conference. Also, the handicapped will be encouraged to participate in the conferences that will be held in each state and territory next spring and summer before the National Conference.

The Chairman of the National Planning and Advisory Council and of the National Conference, Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., is handicapped. Dr. Viscardi has a distinguished career in the field of handicapped. He is a member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and holds similar positions on the state and local levels. He is an assistant professor of clinical rehabilitation medicine at the New York University Medical Center and has written eight books on rehabilitation.

The Executive Director of the Conference, Jack Smith, who is also handicapped, was an Assistant Dean at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology.

B. Participants:

See attached list

C. Press Plan:

White House and open press coverage. Meeting to be announced.

III. TALKING POINTS

To be provided by Paul Theis.

Note: You should be aware that the "Education for the Handicapped" bill has passed the Congress and was delivered to the White House on Thursday.

PARTICIPANTS

HEW

Secretary David Mathews

Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., Chairman, White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals

Mr. Jack F. Smith, Executive Director, White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals

Dr. Andrew S. Adams, Commissioner, Rehabilitation Services Administration

Dr. Edwin W. Martin, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Education of the Handicapped

Mr. James W. Stockdill, Deputy Director, National Institute of Mental Health

Mr. Dan McHugh, Interpreter

Mr. James Gelatt, Public Affairs Officer, White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals

ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Harold Russell, Chairman, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped

Mrs. N. Lorraine Beebe, Vice Chairman, President's Committee on Mental Retardation

Dr. Lewis Cooper, Vice Chairman, National Advisory Council of Services and Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled

Dr. Rene Cailliet, President, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

Mr. Ronald Drach, National Director of Employment, Disabled American Veterans

Mr. Charles Camp, Assistant, The National Association for Mental Health, Inc.

Ms. Eunice Fiorito, President, American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities

Mr. Jess M. Smith, President, National Association of the Deaf

Mrs. Nancy J. Kowalski, Interpreter, National Association of the Deaf

CONGRESSIONAL

Senator Robert J. Dole (R. Kan.)

Senator Robert T. Stafford (R. Vt.)

Senator Jennings Randolph (R. Kan.)