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NOVEMBER 22, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

The President announced today that the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals will be held in December, 1976.

BACKGROUND

The White House Conference, established by Public Law 93-516, was signed into law by President Ford on December 6, 1974. Before the national meeting, a series of State conferences will be held to assist in determining the agenda and priorities of the national meeting. The Act authorizes a grant of up to \$25,000 for each State and territory for this conference. In addition, \$2 million is authorized for the national conference.

The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare has appointed a 28 member National Planning and Advisory Council to the conference. Council members include nationally known educators, rehabilitation specialists, medical personnel, social workers, government officials, families of handicapped individuals and consumers.

THE MISSION OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Stimulate a national assessment of problems faced by individuals with physical or mental handicaps;
2. Generate a national awareness of those problems;
3. 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.

MEMBERSHIP ON THE NATIONAL PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., of King's Point, Long Island, an internationally known rehabilitation specialist and author, has been appointed chairman of the Council and will direct the White House Conference. He, like many of the Council members, is handicapped.

Administrative responsibility for the conference rests with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The Executive Director of the conference is Jack F. Smith, who before his appointment, was an Assistant Dean, Educational Extension, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology. Mr. Smith is handicapped.

Handicapped citizens will be involved in all phases of the conference. Handicapped individuals are on the Advisory Council and have been hired to help plan and conduct the White House Conference and to serve as consultants in the development of issue papers. At least half of the delegates to the National Conference will be handicapped persons. Also, handicapped individuals are encouraged to participate in the State Conferences.

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OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDE:

1. Ms. Jacquelin Sallenger Allsup
Charter Member, National Rehabilitation Counseling Assn.
2. Ms. Jane Belau
President, National Conference on Developmental Disabilities
3. Dr. Louis Bransford
Director of Utilization, Satellite Technology Demonstration,
Federation of Rocky Mountain States
4. Mr. Jesse Brown
Supervisory National Service Officer for Disabled American
Veterans, Veterans Benefits Office, Washington, D.C.
5. Mr. John Christensen
Assistant to the Executive Vice President of Merchantsiding,
Montgomery Ward (Retired), Chicago, Illinois
6. Dr. Charles L. Christian
Physician-in-Chief and Associate Director of Research for
the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York
7. Mr. Salvatore D'Amico
President of the Blinded Veterans Association, Connecticut
Regional Group
8. Ms. Sondra Diamond
Psychological Counselor for Retarded Young Adults at the
Woods School, Langhorne, Pennsylvania
9. Senator Robert Dole
United States Senator, Kansas
10. Former Governor of South Dakota, Joe Foss
Director of Public Affairs, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
11. Dr. Victor H. Galloway
Director, Development Education at the Model Secondary
School for the Deaf, Washington, D.C.
12. Mr. Leonard Goldenson
Chairman of the Board, American Broadcasting Company
13. Ms. Phyllis Harper
Supervisor, Hearing Conservation/Educational Services,
Area Education Agency XVI, Iowa
14. Dr. Harold W. Heller
President, Teacher Education Division of the National
Council for Exceptional Children
15. Dr. Paul R. Hoffman
Chairman, Department of Rehabilitation and Manpower
Services, University of Wisconsin-Stout.
16. Mr. Morley Hudson
President, Hudson-Rush Company of Shreveport and Dallas
17. Senator Margaret R. Manning
State Senator, Delaware
18. Former U.S. Senator George L. Murphy
Director of Public Relations of MGM Studios

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19. Mr. Albert T. Pimentel
Director, Public Service Programs, Gallaudet College,
Washington, D.C.
20. Mr. Burt L. Risley
Executive Director, Texas Commission for the Blind
21. Ms. Barbara Sachs
Clinical Psychologist in the Mental Health Programs
for the Deaf, National Institute of Mental Health
22. Mr. Max Schneier
Chairman, Federation of Parents Organization for the
New York State Mental Institutions, Inc.
23. Ms. Jayne Shover
Executive Director, National Easter Seal Society for
Crippled Children and Adults
24. Ms. Beverly Sills
Coloratura Soprano, New York City Opera
25. Ms. Dianne B. Smith
Counselor, Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C.
26. Dr. Ronald St. Pierre
Chairman, Anatomy Department at Ohio State University's
School of Medicine
27. Dr. Donald W. Trubey
Chairman, Department of Communication Disorders at
Eastern New Mexico University

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