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OA/ID Number: 13572
Folder ID Number: 13572-004

Folder Title:
Hospital for Sick Children, 6/13/91 [OA 6034]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	17	2	1

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

SUBJECT: GROUNDBREAKING AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

On Thursday, June 13, at 10 a.m., you will take part in a groundbreaking ceremony at Washington's Hospital for Sick Children. The hospital will be constructing a new addition and renovating part of its existing building to add more beds. The First Lady and Secretary Sullivan will be with you.

The Hospital for Sick Children is unique because it is a transitional care facility -- a long-term solution for children who no longer need the acute care of a hospital but aren't yet well enough to go home. The patients range from premature babies to children who are victims of accidents, abuse or drugs. Most stay at least a year.

Your remarks (6 minutes, cards) point out what makes this place special, and urge that this model of care be adopted throughout the country.

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
June 11, 1991 6:30 p.m.
CHILDREN Draft Four

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
Thursday, June 13, 1991 10 a.m.
Washington, D.C.

[[Acknowledgements to come]] Dr. Sullivan and I just came from a special event in the Rose Garden, talking about the importance of childhood immunization, and I want to tell you -- the more I watch and listen to this man, the more I respect him.

I think Barbara's a little jealous. She heard that 62 years ago the First Lady laid the cornerstone for the main building; so she was hoping to do this job today. But I told her I wanted to. You see, Barbara's talked with me about her work here. She speaks with a grandmother's special love for those most in need.

Some of you kids have been to my house, when you've come for Christmas tours. But I wanted to see this place for myself. And you know something -- even listening to Barbara's stories didn't prepare me. I expected to feel sadness, but I felt something more -- real hope.

As parents, we desperately want to protect our kids. We want to spare them pain or fear. That's why our hearts go out to families whose kids lie in the incubators and cribs and wheelchairs behind those walls. It's hard to face a world in which your children suffer. You ride an emotional rollercoaster. You struggle to make it from sunrise to sunset. You must draw upon courage, faith, and love to withstand the bitterness, the self-pity, the pain -- and the haunting knowledge that other children are leading carefree and happy lives. [[Barbara and I

know. We've been there.]]

These marvelous kids have won their first great battle -- the battle for life. Now they're fighting the battle for recovery. And my money's on them.

This is the place where they start. It may be hard for some of us to walk into this hospital. But you can't help but get drawn into the drama that unfolds within its walls. You see notes at the end of the cribs -- "she smiles when tummy is rubbed" -- or "he reaches for panda when it's moved away." As you look through the thicket of ventilators, catheters, wires, cords and monitors, you catch glimpses of stuffed animals, photos of parents, little cards or drawings. Some tiny bodies bear the marks of what brought them here -- society's ailments -- abuse, accidents, drugs.

But the staff's love and care cast a special light upon everything. I was reminded of a Bible verse that describes apostles who did their work because it was right -- and its rightness brought them joy. It says: "We were gentle among you -- like a nurse taking care of her children."

Gentle among us -- like the nurse in a rocking chair, cradling an infant swathed in tubes. Or the one who dressed a comatose girl in a new dress. The little girl, in her twilight world, may never see her outfit, but it shows that someone cares. Gentle like the senior citizen volunteer sitting next to a window, feeding the blind toddler on his lap. The caregivers have created within a maze of machines and respirators a human

world -- a community of hugs and kisses. A world where people talk not of how sick the kids are -- but of how well they can be. A world where a nurse, explaining why she does what she does, says without pausing to think it over: "They feel our love."

You know, we toss around the word "miracle" a lot. But this hospital reminds us of its true meaning. A real miracle is saving one child. It's watching a toddler take the first unassisted breath of his life. It's seeing a young girl, paralyzed from the neck down, learning to draw with her mouth. It's saying goodbye to a little boy who came 14 months ago as a premature newborn -- and who'll be leaving next month, going home with mom and dad.

We care for these kids because every single life is precious. We feel for them because we feel deeply the right of all to realize their full potential as human beings -- and because we want them to live with dignity and with pride.

That's the legacy of the Hospital for Sick Children -- a legacy that must spread. I was amazed to hear that this is one of only a handful of similar hospitals in the nation. We need more places like this -- transitional care facilities for kids who no longer require a hospital's acute care but who aren't well enough to go home yet. We need communities like this, where parents can apply the salve of love -- and can learn how to care for their kids in the years ahead.

The staff here is developing a program that shows how to set up this kind of hospital. I hope health-care professionals across this country will enroll and develop more hospitals like

this one. They're cost-effective. And they work -- they stabilize children and give them the best possible chance to live -- and recover. We will need more such centers, since the technologies that save lives also create more long-term care challenges.

Barbara's told me you always have a waiting list. She's also told me you never turn away children whose families can't pay. I look at your plans for expansion, and think of how many more lives you'll be able to touch. The Hospital for Sick Children is a hidden treasure. And it brings out the hidden treasure in kids who otherwise might have been forever forgotten.

No one who walks through your doors can leave without feeling a kind of sacred awe. You bring alive the prayer of St. Francis: "Where there is despair, [let me sow] hope. Where there is darkness -- light. And where there is sadness -- joy."

Thank you for the life-transforming love you show. I will never forget this place -- or any of you. May God bless you -- your inspiring work -- and the very special kids you love.

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HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN \ WASHINGTON, D.C.
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1991 \ 10 A.M.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR WARM, WARM WELCOME --
BARBARA AND I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY IT. I WANT TO
ACKNOWLEDGE A SPECIAL FRIEND OF YOURS AND MINE -- HHS
SECRETARY SULLIVAN. HE AND I JUST CAME FROM THE ROSE
GARDEN, WHERE WE TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF
CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION. I WANT TO TELL YOU -- THE MORE
I SEE AND LISTEN TO THIS MAN, THE MORE I RESPECT HIS
WORK.

-- 2 --

WE'RE ALSO HONORED TO HAVE WITH US OUR SURGEON
GENERAL, DR. ANTONIA NOVELLO, WHO HAS SUCH POIGNANT
FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE CRITICAL NEED FOR THIS KIND
OF HOSPITAL OF COMPASSION.

AND A SPECIAL GREETING TO DR. [CONSTANCE] BATTLE
-- THE HOSPITAL'S CEO, MEDICAL DIRECTOR, AND GUIDING
SPIRIT. STEPHEN MONTGOMERY, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOSPITAL'S
BOARD. AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA.

ALSO, WELCOME TO THE DOCTORS, NURSES, THERAPISTS, AIDES, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO FILL THESE HALLS WITH LIFE AND LOVE. A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE PARENTS WHO ARE HERE. AND MOST OF ALL -- TO THE KIDS. YOU BELONG TO ALL OUR HEARTS. \\\

BARBARA AND I ARE THRILLED TO BE HERE. SHE HEARD THAT 62 YEARS AGO THE FIRST LADY, MRS. HERBERT HOOVER, LAID THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE MAIN BUILDING HERE -- SO SHE IS THRILLED WE'LL GET TO DO THIS JOB TODAY.

BARBARA'S TALKED WITH ME ABOUT HER WORK HERE. SHE SPEAKS WITH A GRANDMOTHER'S SPECIAL LOVE FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED.

SOME OF YOU KIDS HAVE BEEN TO OUR HOUSE, WHEN YOU'VE COME FOR CHRISTMAS TOURS. BUT I WANTED TO SEE THIS PLACE FOR MYSELF. AND YOU KNOW SOMETHING -- EVEN LISTENING TO BARBARA'S STORIES DIDN'T PREPARE ME. I EXPECTED TO FEEL SADNESS, BUT I FELT SOMETHING MORE -- REAL HOPE. \\\

AS PARENTS, WE DESPERATELY WANT TO PROTECT OUR KIDS. WE WANT TO SPARE THEM PAIN OR FEAR. THAT'S WHY OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO FAMILIES WHOSE KIDS LIE IN THE INCUBATORS AND CRIBS AND WHEELCHAIRS BEHIND THOSE WALLS. IT'S HARD TO FACE A WORLD IN WHICH YOUR CHILDREN SUFFER. YOU RIDE AN EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER. YOU MUST DRAW UPON ALL YOUR RESERVES OF COURAGE, FAITH, AND LOVE JUST TO MAKE IT THROUGH EACH DAY. \\\

THESE MARVELOUS KIDS HAVE WON THEIR FIRST GREAT BATTLE -- THE BATTLE FOR LIFE. NOW THEY'RE FIGHTING THE BATTLE FOR RECOVERY. AND MY MONEY'S ON THEM. \\\

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THEY START. IT MAY BE HARD FOR SOME OF US TO WALK INTO THIS HOSPITAL. BUT YOU GET DRAWN INTO THE DRAMA OF LIFE WITHIN ITS WALLS. YOU SEE NOTES AT THE END OF THE CRIBS -- "SHE SMILES WHEN TUMMY IS RUBBED" -- OR "HE REACHES FOR PANDA WHEN IT'S MOVED AWAY."

AS YOU LOOK THROUGH THE THICKET OF VENTILATORS, CATHETERS, WIRES, CORDS AND MONITORS, YOU CATCH GLIMPSSES OF STUFFED ANIMALS, PHOTOS OF PARENTS, CARDS OR DRAWINGS. SOME TINY BODIES BEAR THE MARKS OF WHAT BROUGHT THEM HERE -- SOCIETY'S AILMENTS -- ABUSE, ACCIDENTS, DRUGS.

BUT THE STAFF'S LOVE AND CARE CAST A SPECIAL LIGHT UPON EVERYTHING.

I WAS REMINDED OF A BIBLE VERSE THAT DESCRIBES APOSTLES WHO DID THEIR WORK BECAUSE IT WAS RIGHT -- AND ITS RIGHTNESS BROUGHT THEM JOY. IT SAYS: "WE WERE GENTLE AMONG YOU -- LIKE A NURSE TAKING CARE OF HER CHILDREN."

"GENTLE AMONG US" -- LIKE THE NURSE IN A ROCKING CHAIR, CRADLING AN INFANT SWATHED IN TUBES. OR THE ONE WHO DRESSED A COMATOSE GIRL IN A NEW DRESS. THE LITTLE GIRL, IN HER TWILIGHT WORLD, WILL NEVER SEE HER OUTFIT -- BUT IT SHOWS THAT SOMEONE CARES.

GENTLE LIKE THE SENIOR CITIZEN VOLUNTEER SITTING NEXT TO A WINDOW, FEEDING THE BLIND TODDLER ON HIS LAP.

THE CAREGIVERS HAVE CREATED WITHIN A MAZE OF MACHINES AND RESPIRATORS A HUMAN WORLD -- A COMMUNITY OF HUGS AND KISSES. A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE TALK NOT OF HOW SICK THE KIDS ARE -- BUT OF HOW WELL THEY CAN BE. A WORLD WHERE A NURSE, EXPLAINING WHY SHE DOES WHAT SHE DOES, SAYS WITHOUT PAUSING TO THINK IT OVER -- "THEY FEEL OUR LOVE." \\\

YOU KNOW, WE TOSS AROUND THE WORD "MIRACLE" A LOT. BUT THIS HOSPITAL REMINDS US OF ITS TRUE MEANING. A REAL MIRACLE IS SAVING ONE CHILD. IT'S WATCHING A TODDLER TAKE THE FIRST UNASSISTED BREATH OF HIS LIFE. IT'S SEEING A YOUNG GIRL, PARALYZED FROM THE NECK DOWN, LEARNING TO DRAW WITH HER MOUTH. IT'S SAYING GOODBYE TO A LITTLE BOY WHO CAME 14 MONTHS AGO AS A PREMATURE NEWBORN -- AND WHO'LL BE LEAVING NEXT MONTH, GOING HOME WITH HIS MOM AND DAD. \\\

WE CARE FOR THESE KIDS BECAUSE EVERY SINGLE LIFE IS PRECIOUS. WE CARE FOR THEM BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON HAS THE RIGHT TO REALIZE HIS FULL POTENTIAL AS A HUMAN BEING -- AND LIVE HIS LIFE WITH DIGNITY AND WITH PRIDE. \\\

THAT'S THE LEGACY OF THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN. IT'S A LEGACY THAT MUST SPREAD. I WAS AMAZED TO HEAR THAT THIS IS ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF SIMILAR HOSPITALS IN THE NATION.

WE NEED MORE PLACES LIKE THIS -- TRANSITIONAL CARE FACILITIES FOR KIDS WHO NO LONGER REQUIRE A HOSPITAL'S ACUTE CARE BUT WHO AREN'T WELL ENOUGH TO GO HOME YET. WE NEED COMMUNITIES LIKE THIS, WHERE PARENTS CAN APPLY THE SALVE OF LOVE -- AND CAN LEARN HOW TO CARE FOR THEIR KIDS IN THE YEARS AHEAD. \\\

THE STAFF HERE IS DEVELOPING A PROGRAM THAT SHOWS HOW TO SET UP THIS KIND OF HOSPITAL.

I HOPE HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY WILL LEARN FROM IT AND GO ON TO DEVELOP MORE FACILITIES LIKE THIS. THEY'RE COST-EFFECTIVE. AND THEY WORK. THEY STABILIZE CHILDREN AND GIVE THEM THE BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE TO LIVE -- AND TO RECOVER. WE'LL NEED MORE SUCH CENTERS, SINCE THE TECHNOLOGIES THAT SAVE LIVES ALSO CREATE MORE LONG-TERM CARE CHALLENGES.

BARBARA'S TOLD ME YOU ALWAYS HAVE A WAITING LIST HERE.

SHE'S ALSO TOLD ME YOU NEVER TURN AWAY CHILDREN WHOSE FAMILIES CAN'T PAY. I LOOK AT YOUR PLANS FOR EXPANSION, AND THINK OF HOW MANY MORE LIVES YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TOUCH. THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN IS A HIDDEN TREASURE. AND IT BRINGS OUT THE HIDDEN TREASURE IN KIDS WHO OTHERWISE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOREVER FORGOTTEN.

NO ONE WHO WALKS THROUGH YOUR DOORS CAN LEAVE WITHOUT FEELING A KIND OF AWE.

YOU BRING ALIVE THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS -- "WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, [LET ME SOW] HOPE. WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS -- LIGHT. AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS -- JOY."

THANK YOU FOR THE LIFE-TRANSFORMING LOVE YOU SHOW. I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS PLACE -- OR ANY OF YOU. MAY GOD BLESS YOU -- YOUR INSPIRING WORK -- AND THE VERY SPECIAL KIDS YOU LOVE.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
6-13-91

June 11, 1991

91 JUN 11 PM 6:54

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

SUBJECT: GROUNDBREAKING AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

*OK
modest
changes*

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(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
June 11, 1991 6:30 p.m.
CHILDREN Draft Four

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I think Barbara's ^{and I + thrilled to be here} a little jealous. She heard that 62 years ago the First Lady laid the cornerstone for the main building; so she ^{is thrilled we'll get} ~~was hoping~~ to do this job today. ~~But I told her I wanted to.~~ You see, Barbara's talked with me about her work here. She speaks with a grandmother's special love for those most in need.

Some of you kids have been to ^{our} ~~my~~ house, when you've come for Christmas tours. But I wanted to see this place for myself. And you know something -- even listening to Barbara's stories didn't prepare me. I expected to feel sadness, but I felt something more -- real hope.

As parents, we desperately want to protect our kids. We want to spare them pain or fear. That's why our hearts go out to families whose kids lie in the incubators and cribs and wheelchairs behind those walls. It's hard to face a world in which your children suffer. You ride an emotional rollercoaster. You struggle to make it from sunrise to sunset. You must draw upon courage, faith, and love to withstand the bitterness, the self-pity, the pain -- and the haunting knowledge that other children are leading carefree and happy lives. [~~Barbara~~ and I

~~know. We've been there.]]~~

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This is the place where they start. It may be hard for some of us to walk into this hospital. But you can't help but get drawn into the drama that unfolds within its walls. You see notes at the end of the cribs -- "she smiles when tummy is rubbed" -- or "he reaches for panda when it's moved away." As you look through the thicket of ventilators, catheters, wires, cords and monitors, you catch glimpses of stuffed animals, photos of parents, little cards or drawings. Some tiny bodies bear the marks of what brought them here -- society's ailments -- abuse, accidents, drugs.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 JUN 11 4:00 PM

DATE: 6/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TUESDAY, JUNE 11

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments on the attached directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office by 4:00 TUESDAY, JUNE 11. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See comments on page one only,
Thanks. Holly Williamson
6-11-91*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

The President should reference the immunization speech he will have just given.

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)

June 7, 1991 11:30 p.m.

CHILDREN Draft Three

91 JUN -7 PM 11:49

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
Thursday, June 13, 1991 1:30 pm
Washington, D.C.

I think Barbara's a little jealous. She heard that 62 years ago the First Lady laid the cornerstone for the main building; so she was hoping to do this job today. But I told her I wanted to. You see, Barbara's talked with me about her work here. She speaks with a grandmother's special love for those most in need.

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[[Barbara and I know. We've been there.]]

These marvelous kids have won their first great battle -- the battle for life. Now they're fighting the battle for recovery. And my money's on them.

✓
Need to reference Dr. Sullivan who will be at the hospital.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TUESDAY, JUNE 11

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HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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SP. OK

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

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RESPONSE: *See comments*

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As parents, we desperately want to protect our kids. We want to spare them pain or fear. That's why our hearts go out to families whose kids lie in the incubators and cribs and wheelchairs behind those walls. It's hard to face a world in which your children suffer. You ride an emotional rollercoaster. You struggle to make it from sunrise to sunset. You must draw upon the tools of courage, faith, and love to withstand the bitterness, the self-pity, the pain -- and the haunting knowledge that other children are leading carefree and happy lives.

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This is the place where they start. It may be hard for some of us to walk into this hospital. But you can't help but get drawn into the drama that unfolds within its walls. You see notes at the end of the cribs -- "she smiles when tummy is rubbed" -- or "he reaches for panda when it's moved away." As you look through the thicket of ventilators, catheters, wires, cords and monitors, you catch glimpses of stuffed animals, photos of parents, little cards or drawings. Some tiny bodies bear the marks of what brought them here -- society's ailments -- abuse, accidents, drugs.

But the staff's love and care cast a special light upon everything. I was reminded of a Bible verse that describes apostles who did their work because it was right -- and its rightness brought them joy. It says: "We were gentle among you -- like a nurse taking care of her children."

Gentle among us -- like the nurse in a rocking chair, cradling an infant swathed in tubes. Or the one who dressed a comatose girl in a new dress. The little girl, in her twilight world, may never pose for anyone, but she radiated a very special beauty. Gentle like the senior citizen volunteer sitting next to a window, feeding the blind toddler on his lap. The caregivers have created within a maze of machines and respirators a human world -- a community of hugs and kisses. A world where people talk not of how sick the kids are -- but of how well they can be. A world where a nurse, explaining why she does what she does, says without pausing to think it over: "They feel our love."

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We care for these kids because every single life is precious. We feel for them because we feel deeply the right of all to realize their full potential as human beings -- and because we want them to live with dignity and with pride.

That's the legacy of the Hospital for Sick Children -- a legacy that must spread. I was amazed to hear that this is one of only about a dozen similar hospitals in the entire nation. We need more places like this -- transitional care facilities for kids who no longer require a hospital's acute care but who aren't well enough to go home yet. We need communities like this, where parents can apply the salve of love -- and can learn how to care for their kids in the years ahead.

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Note: Our staff does not have any basis for confirming this statement.

Scully
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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 6/11/91

TO: *Tony Snow*

FROM: **CLARK KENT ERVIN**
Office of National Service
Room 100, OEOB
x6266

KE

- Action
- Your Comment
- Let's Talk
- FYI

*Attached are our comments on
the Hospital for Sick children
speech.*

91 JUN -7 PM 11:49

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
June 7, 1991 11:30 p.m.
CHILDREN Draft Three

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
Thursday, June 13, 1991 1:30 pm
Washington, D.C.

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(as presently worded, suggests government funding)

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Point of light

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continue

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TUESDAY, JUNE 11

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide comments on the attached directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office by 4:00 TUESDAY, JUNE 11. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 JUN -7 PM11:49

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
June 7, 1991 11:30 p.m.
CHILDREN Draft Three

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→ OMB cannot confirm this statement.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

91 JUN 10 P3:17

June 10, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW
Deputy Assistant to the President for
Communications and Director of Speechwriting

FROM: JANET REHNQUIST *JR*
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks -- Hospital for Sick
Children; Thursday, June 13, 1991

At your request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter

cc: Phil Brady

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

91 JUN 11 1991
June 11, 1991 2:36

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Hospital for Sick Children

We have reviewed the attached draft and have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint. We approve of the draft remarks in their current form.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TUESDAY, JUNE 11

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1991

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

91 JUN -7 PM 11:49

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
June 7, 1991 11:30 p.m.
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91 JUN 11 11 17

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Gentle among us -- like the nurse in a rocking chair, cradling an infant swathed in tubes. Or the one who dressed a comatose girl in a new dress. The little girl, in her twilight world, may never pose for anyone, but she radiated a very special beauty. Gentle like the senior citizen volunteer sitting next to a window, feeding the blind toddler on his lap. The caregivers have created within a maze of machines and respirators a human world -- a community of hugs and kisses. A world where people talk not of how sick the kids are -- but of how well they can be. A world where a nurse, explaining why she does what she does, says without pausing to think it over: "They feel our love."

You know, we toss around the word "miracle" a lot. But this hospital reminds us of its true meaning. A real miracle is saving one child. It's watching Jeb take the first unassisted breath of his two-year life. It's seeing Lucy, paralyzed from the neck down in a car crash, learning to draw with her mouth. It's saying goodbye to Pattie, who entered here 20 months ago, premature and weighing 24 ounces -- and who left here beaming, with mom and dad.

We care for these kids because every single life is precious. We feel for them because we feel deeply the right of all to realize their full potential as human beings -- and because we want them to live with dignity and with pride.

That's the legacy of the Hospital for Sick Children -- a legacy that must spread. I was amazed to hear that this is one of only about a dozen similar hospitals in the entire nation. We need more places like this -- transitional care facilities for kids who no longer require a hospital's acute care but who aren't well enough to go home yet. We need communities like this, where parents can apply the salve of love -- and can learn how to care for their kids in the years ahead.

The staff here is developing a program that shows how to set up this kind of hospital. I hope health-care professionals across this country will enroll and develop more hospitals like this one. Remarkably, facilities like this charge half of what traditional hospitals charge. And they work: They stabilize children and give them the best possible chance to live -- and

recover. We will need more such centers, since the technologies that save lives also create more long-term care challenges.

Barbara's told me you always have a waiting list. She's also told me you never turn away children whose families can't pay. I look at your plans for expansion, and think of how many more lives you'll be able to touch. The Hospital for Sick Children is a hidden treasure. And it brings out the hidden treasure in kids who otherwise might have been forever forgotten.

No one who walks through your doors can leave without feeling a kind of sacred awe. You bring alive the prayer of St. Francis: "Where there is despair, let me sow hope. Where there is darkness -- light. And where there is sadness -- joy."

Thank you for the life-transforming love you show. I will never forget this place -- or any of you. May God bless you -- your inspiring work -- and the very special kids inside.

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(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
June 6, 1991 11 p.m.
CHILDREN Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
Thursday, June 13, 1991 1:30 pm
Washington, D.C.

I think Barbara's a little jealous. She heard that 62 years ago the First Lady laid the cornerstone for the main building; so she was hoping to do this job today. But I told her I wanted to. You see, Barbara's talked with me about her work here. She speaks with a grandmother's special love for those most in need.

I've met some of you kids at my house, when you've come for Christmas parties. But I wanted to see this place for myself. And you know something -- even listening to Barbara's stories didn't prepare me. I expected to feel sadness, but I felt something more -- real hope.

As parents, we desperately want to protect our kids. We want to spare them pain or fear. That's why our hearts go out to families whose kids lie in the incubators and cribs and wheelchairs behind those walls. It's hard to face a world in which your children suffer. You ride an emotional rollercoaster. ~~You struggle to make ^{it} from sunrise to sunset.~~ You must draw upon the tools of courage, faith, and love to make it through long nights --- and ~~to make it~~ through days in which other children live carefree and happy lives. [[Barbara and I know. We've been there.]]

These marvelous kids have won their first great battle -- the battle for life. Now they're fighting the battle for recovery. And my money's on them.

This is the place where they start. It may be hard for some of us to walk into this hospital. But you can't help but get drawn into the drama that unfolds within its walls. You see notes at the end of the cribs -- "she smiles when tummy is rubbed" -- or "he reaches for panda when it's moved away." As you look through the thicket of ventilators, catheters, wires, cords and monitors, you catch glimpses of stuffed animals, photos of parents, little cards or drawings. Some tiny bodies bear the marks of what brought them here -- society's ailments -- abuse, accidents, drugs.

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nurse, nurse, nurse
- where are you doing

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That's the legacy of the Hospital for Sick Children -- a legacy that must spread. I was amazed to hear that this is one of only about a dozen similar hospitals in the entire nation. We need more places like this -- [transitional care facilities] for kids who no longer require a hospital's acute care but who aren't well enough to go home yet. We need communities like this, where parents can apply the salve of love -- and can learn how to care for their kids in the years ahead.

The staff here is developing a program that shows how to set up this kind of hospital. I hope health-care professionals across this country will enroll and develop more hospitals like this one. Remarkably, facilities like this charge half of what traditional hospitals charge. And they work: They stabilize children and give them the best possible chance to live -- and

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I've met some of you kids at my house, when you've come for Christmas parties. But I wanted to see this place for myself. And you know something -- even listening to Barbara's stories didn't prepare me. I expected to feel sadness, but I felt something more, ~~too~~. A very special kind of hope.

As parents, we desperately want to protect our kids. We don't want them to have to know there are such things as pain or fear. That's why our hearts go out first to the families whose kids lie in the incubators and cribs and wheelchairs behind those walls. It's hard to face a world where your babies ^{children} suffer. You ride on an emotional rollercoaster, learning to carve out your daily lives with the tools of courage, faith, and love.

[[Barbara and I know. We've been there.]]

But these kids are ~~tough little survivors~~. ^{have} They've already won their first battle -- the battle for life. Now they're fighting the ~~battle for~~ recovery. And my money's on them as they ~~struggle to grab hold of a real life~~.

This is the place where they can ~~do it~~. Sure, it's hard to

Start

walk in there. There are notes at the end of the cribs -- "she smiles when tummy is rubbed" -- or "he reaches for panda when it's moved away." Stuffed animals and photos of parents and pets intermingle with a jungle of ventilators, catheters, and heart monitors. Some tiny bodies bear the marks of what brought them here -- ~~society's ailments~~ -- abuse, ~~or~~ accidents, ~~or~~ drugs.

But there's one remarkable thing that overwhelms everything else -- the caring of the staff. I was reminded of a Bible verse that describes apostles who seek no special privilege or glory - - who preach simply for the sheer joy of it. It says: "We were gentle among you -- like a nurse taking care of her children."

Gentle among us -- like the nurse in a rocking chair, cradling an infant swathed in tubes. Or the one who dressed a comatose girl in a new dress -- in her twilight world, she'll never see the outfit, but someone cared enough to make her look pretty. Gentle like the senior citizen volunteer sitting next to a window trying to feed the blind toddler on his lap. The caregivers have created a world defined not by machines and respirators, but by hugs and kisses. A world where nurses talk not of how sick the kids are -- but of how well they can be. A world where a nurse, explaining why she does what she does, says simply -- "They feel our love."

You know, we toss around the word "miracle" a lot. But this hospital reminds us of its true meaning. A real miracle is saving one child. It's watching Jeb take his first breath on his own in his two years of life. It's seeing Lucy, paralyzed from

the neck down in a car crash, learning to draw with her mouth. It's saying goodbye to Pattie, who had been a 24-ounce premature baby 20 months ago, [as her parents take her home]

The care each of these fragile kids gets tells us that every single life is precious. It shows us we must ensure that everyone realizes his full potential as a human being -- and live with dignity and with pride.

That's the legacy of the Hospital for Sick Children -- a legacy that must spread. I was amazed to hear that this is one of only about a dozen similar hospitals in the entire nation. We ~~critically~~ need places like this -- transitional care facilities for kids who no longer require a hospital's acute care but who aren't yet well enough to go home. We need nurturing environments like this one that also prepare families for the care their kids will need when they finally leave.

The staff here is developing a program that shows how to set up this kind of hospital. ^{If Dept} Health-care professionals across this country should study it and act. ^{Wants at the} Facilities like this are cost-effective -- they charge 1/2 of traditional hospital fees and free up beds. They're ^{work} ~~medically~~ effective -- they stabilize the child and give him the best possible chance at living his life. They respond to an urgent need, since technology is saving more lives and creating more long-term care challenges.

Barbara's told me you always have a waiting list. She's also told me you never turn away a child because his family can't pay. I look at your plans for expansion, and think of how many

more lives you'll be able to ^{make what} touch. The Hospital for Sick Children is a hidden treasure. And it brings out the hidden treasure in kids who otherwise might have been forever forgotten.

No one who walks through your doors can leave without feeling a kind of sacred awe.
~~All of you who are part of this hospital live and work with a special grace.~~ You've learned the true meaning of the prayer of St. Francis: "Where there is despair, let me sow hope. Where there is darkness -- light. And where there is sadness -- joy."

Thank you for the life-transforming love you show. I will never forget this place -- or any of you. May God bless you -- your inspiring work -- and the very special kids inside.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 06/12/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
(06/11 6:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1991

91 JUN 11 PM 6:54

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST
 TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

SUBJECT: GROUNDBREAKING AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

On Thursday, June 13, at 10 a.m., you will take part in a groundbreaking ceremony at Washington's Hospital for Sick Children. The hospital will be constructing a new addition and renovating part of its existing building to add more beds. The First Lady and Secretary Sullivan will be with you.

The Hospital for Sick Children is unique because it is a transitional care facility -- a long-term solution for children who no longer need the acute care of a hospital but aren't yet well enough to go home. The patients range from premature babies to children who are victims of accidents, abuse or drugs. Most stay at least a year.

Your remarks (6 minutes, cards) point out what makes this place special, and urge that this model of care be adopted throughout the country.

(Hinchliffe/Blymire)
June 11, 1991 6:30 p.m.
CHILDREN Draft Four

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
Thursday, June 13, 1991 10 a.m.
Washington, D.C.

[[Acknowledgements to come]] Dr. Sullivan and I just came from a special event in the Rose Garden, talking about the importance of childhood immunization, and I want to tell you -- the more I watch and listen to this man, the more I respect him.

I think Barbara's a little jealous. She heard that 62 years ago the First Lady laid the cornerstone for the main building; so she was hoping to do this job today. But I told her I wanted to. You see, Barbara's talked with me about her work here. She speaks with a grandmother's special love for those most in need.

Some of you kids have been to my house, when you've come for Christmas tours. But I wanted to see this place for myself. And you know something -- even listening to Barbara's stories didn't prepare me. I expected to feel sadness, but I felt something more -- real hope.

As parents, we desperately want to protect our kids. We want to spare them pain or fear. That's why our hearts go out to families whose kids lie in the incubators and cribs and wheelchairs behind those walls. It's hard to face a world in which your children suffer. You ride an emotional rollercoaster. You struggle to make it from sunrise to sunset. You must draw upon courage, faith, and love to withstand the bitterness, the self-pity, the pain -- and the haunting knowledge that other children are leading carefree and happy lives. [[Barbara and I

know. We've been there.]]

These marvelous kids have won their first great battle -- the battle for life. Now they're fighting the battle for recovery. And my money's on them.

This is the place where they start. It may be hard for some of us to walk into this hospital. But you can't help but get drawn into the drama that unfolds within its walls. You see notes at the end of the cribs -- "she smiles when tummy is rubbed" -- or "he reaches for panda when it's moved away." As you look through the thicket of ventilators, catheters, wires, cords and monitors, you catch glimpses of stuffed animals, photos of parents, little cards or drawings. Some tiny bodies bear the marks of what brought them here -- society's ailments -- abuse, accidents, drugs.

But the staff's love and care cast a special light upon everything. I was reminded of a Bible verse that describes apostles who did their work because it was right -- and its rightness brought them joy. It says: "We were gentle among you -- like a nurse taking care of her children."

Gentle among us -- like the nurse in a rocking chair, cradling an infant swathed in tubes. Or the one who dressed a comatose girl in a new dress. The little girl, in her twilight world, may never see her outfit, but it shows that someone cares. Gentle like the senior citizen volunteer sitting next to a window, feeding the blind toddler on his lap. The caregivers have created within a maze of machines and respirators a human

world -- a community of hugs and kisses. A world where people talk not of how sick the kids are -- but of how well they can be. A world where a nurse, explaining why she does what she does, says without pausing to think it over: "They feel our love."

You know, we toss around the word "miracle" a lot. But this hospital reminds us of its true meaning. A real miracle is saving one child. It's watching a toddler take the first unassisted breath of his life. It's seeing a young girl, paralyzed from the neck down, learning to draw with her mouth. It's saying goodbye to a little boy who came 14 months ago as a premature newborn -- and who'll be leaving next month, going home with mom and dad.

We care for these kids because every single life is precious. We feel for them because we feel deeply the right of all to realize their full potential as human beings -- and because we want them to live with dignity and with pride.

That's the legacy of the Hospital for Sick Children -- a legacy that must spread. I was amazed to hear that this is one of only a handful of similar hospitals in the nation. We need more places like this -- transitional care facilities for kids who no longer require a hospital's acute care but who aren't well enough to go home yet. We need communities like this, where parents can apply the salve of love -- and can learn how to care for their kids in the years ahead.

The staff here is developing a program that shows how to set up this kind of hospital. I hope health-care professionals across this country will enroll and develop more hospitals like

this one. They're cost-effective. And they work -- they stabilize children and give them the best possible chance to live -- and recover. We will need more such centers, since the technologies that save lives also create more long-term care challenges.

Barbara's told me you always have a waiting list. She's also told me you never turn away children whose families can't pay. I look at your plans for expansion, and think of how many more lives you'll be able to touch. The Hospital for Sick Children is a hidden treasure. And it brings out the hidden treasure in kids who otherwise might have been forever forgotten.

No one who walks through your doors can leave without feeling a kind of sacred awe. You bring alive the prayer of St. Francis: "Where there is despair, [let me sow] hope. Where there is darkness -- light. And where there is sadness -- joy."

Thank you for the life-transforming love you show. I will never forget this place -- or any of you. May God bless you -- your inspiring work -- and the very special kids you love.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 13, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

Washington, D.C.

10:02 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very, very much. We have a tent, we have clowns. What else is there? (Laughter.) This is wonderful.

Listen, thanks, for that warm welcome. Barbara and I have been looking forward to this. And I want to acknowledge a special friend of yours, a friend of medicine's who came out with me here today, our Secretary of HHS Dr. Lou Sullivan. (Applause.) We just came from the Rose Garden where we talked about the importance of childhood immunization. And I want to tell you, the more I see and listen to our Secretary, whom we've known before he became Secretary -- Morehouse School of Medicine, where he was the head -- the more I respect his work for this country, particularly for the children of this country.

We're also honored to have with us today, resplendent in uniform, Dr. Antonia Novello, with such a poignant firsthand knowledge she has of the critical need for this kind of hospital of compassion. And a special greeting to Dr. Constance Battle, who I met, the hospital CEO, medical director and guiding spirit. (Applause.)

And to Stephen Montgomery, the introducer, the chairman of this hospital's board -- a person who epitomizes what we refer to as the points of light. Let me say to you and all the other volunteers and all the others that give their lives to helping others here, we are very, very grateful to you.

And to the representatives of the District that are with us today, may I salute you. And welcome also to the doctors, the nurses, the therapists, the aides, the volunteers who fill these halls with life and love. A special welcome -- a special welcome -- to the parents who are here. But even more than that, most of all to the kids themselves right over here. (Applause.)

Barbara and I are thrilled to be here. She heard that 62 years ago, the First Lady, Mrs. Herbert Hoover, laid the cornerstone of the main building here. And so she and I are both thrilled that we'll get to do this job today. (Applause.) She talked with me about her very moving visits here, and she speaks for the mothers' special love for those most in need.

Some of you kids have been to our house, the White House, the people's house, when you've come for Christmas tours. But I wanted to see this place for myself. And you know something, I'm sure that Barbara's stories even didn't prepare me for the majesty of this place. I expected to feel sadness when I got out of the car, and I felt a sense of joy and real hope projected by those who have committed a lot of their lives to helping others here. As parents, we desperately want to protect our kids; we want to spare them pain or fear. And that's why our hearts go out to families whose kids lie in incubators or cribs, wheelchairs behind the walls here. And it's hard to face a world in which your children suffer. You ride an emotional rollercoaster, and you must draw upon all reserves of courage and love and certainly faith just to make it through each day.

MORE

These marvelous kids -- and I wish all of you could see them from this vantage point, at least the ones we have with us -- have won their first great battle, the battle for life. And now they're fighting the battle for recovery. And my money's on them; I believe they're going to make it. (Applause.) And they're being very good listening to all of this. (Laughter.) And this is the place where they start. It may be hard for some of us to walk into a hospital, I confess that myself, but you get drawn into the drama of life within its walls. And you see notes at the end of the cribs, I'm told, "She smiles when tummy is rubbed," or "He reaches for panda when it's moved away." Some tiny bodies bear the marks of what brought them here, regrettably, society's ailments: abuse, accidents, drugs. But the staff's love and care casts a special light upon everything.

I was reminded of a Bible verse that describes apostles who did their work because it was right: "We were gentle among you like a nurse taking care of her children." The Bible says that. Gentle among us like the nurse in a rocking chair, cradling an infant swathed in tubes, or the one who dressed the comatose girl in a new dress. The little girl in her twilight world will never see her outfit, but it shows that somebody cares. Gentle like the senior citizen volunteer sitting next to a window, feeding the blind toddler on his lap. The caregivers have created within a maze of machines and respirators a human world. A community of hugs and kisses. A world where people talk not of how sick the kids are -- that's with them every day -- but of how well they can be. A world where a nurse, explaining why she does what she does, says without pausing to think it over, "They feel our love."

You know, when you're dealing in medicine, whether you're a doctor or not, we toss around the word "miracle" a lot. But this hospital reminds of its true meaning. A real miracle is saving one child. It's watching a toddler take that first unassisted breath in his life. It's seeing a young girl, paralyzed from the neck down, learning to draw with her mouth. Well, Betta, I'm talking about you. (Applause.) Or it's saying good-bye to a boy who came 14 months ago as a premature newborn and who will be leaving next month, going home with his mom and dad. (Applause.)

Really, I think, that's the legacy of the Hospital for Sick Children. It's a legacy that must spread. I was amazed to hear that this is one of only a handful of similar hospitals in this country. We need more places like this -- transitional care facilities for kids who no longer require a hospital's acute care, but who aren't well enough to go home yet. We need communities like this where parents can apply the salve of love and can learn how to care for their kids in the years ahead. And the staff here, I'm told, is developing a magnificent program that shows how to set up this kind of hospital.

I hope health care professionals across this country will learn from it and go on to develop more facilities like this one. They're cost-effective. They work. They stabilize children and give them the best possible chance to live and to recover. We'll need more such centers since the technologies that save lives also create more long-term health challenges.

Barbara's told me that you always have a waiting list here. She's also told me that you never turn away any children whose families cannot pay. (Applause.) And I look at your plans for expansion and think of how many more lives you'll be able to reach out and touch.

The Hospital for Sick Children is a hidden treasure. And it brings out the hidden treasure in kids who otherwise might have been forever forgotten. No one who walks through your doors can leave without feeling a kind of awe. You bring alive the prayer of St. Francis, "Where there is despair, let me sow hope. Where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, joy".

And thank you for the life-transforming love that you show. Barbara and I will never forget this place or any of you. And may God bless you for your inspiring work and the very special kids that you love.

Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END

10:12 A.M. EDT