

Massachusetts, 10/3/77

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OCTOBER 3, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

Dedication of the Mailman Psychobiological Center at McLean Hospital

Mrs. Carter's Remarks - October 3, 1977

Thank you, Mr. Lawrence. I am so pleased to be here today at this dedication. I am aware of the promise this ceremony represents, what it can mean to the millions of Americans who suffer from mental illness.

The new Mailman Psychobiological Research Center at McLean Hospital is an important achievement by the private sector. It was created entirely out of private efforts and private funds. It reflects what can be done for people when a community cares.

For one out of four families who are directly touched by mental illness -- this center represents hope. For the scientific community it marks a major step forward in our quest to learn more about the function of the human mind. For mental health professionals it means important new knowledge that can be used in ways that will directly affect patients.

The concept of this center -- which is to provide services to patients as well as to conduct basic research and train young professionals -- is the hallmark of institutions of excellence. And so this is a very special occasion. Just as this is a very special era in the field of mental health.

We are rapidly learning more about the causes and treatment of schizophrenia -- paranoia -- depression -- and other severe mental disorders. We are dealing with new discoveries that can affect whole populations -- our children -- our elderly -- the alcoholic and the addict.

I was very excited about your invitation to visit here today and so pleased that I could come and see what you are doing. Since I have been involved with the President's Commission on Mental Health, we have had impressed upon us daily the crucial need for research.

As most of you know, we have just submitted to Jimmy the first tentative findings of our President's Commission on Mental Health. And our report calls for more federal support for research. In fact, research money is the only money that we have asked for at this time.

Specifically, the Commission has asked Jimmy to request a 20 percent increase in the research budget of the National Institute of Mental Health. And a 30 percent increase in the research budget of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. And a 35 percent increase in the research budget of the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

But Government cannot and should not assume the responsibility for all research. You here today know that all too well. And these funds that we have asked for are really modest funds when we consider the overall cost of mental illness in our society. We spend \$17 billion a year on mental health care and only one half of one percent of that goes to support basic research. And I am not sure that the public fully understands the implications of that fact.

The very word "research" is too abstract when applied to the mysteries of the human mind. The average citizen often does not understand the complex nature of your scientific work, or what it can eventually mean to them. Or to a relative. Or to a friend.

One of the things that I would like to get across to the public is the crucial nature of basic research into the causes of mental illness. Because an informed public can be a powerful ally -- and we need this support.

You demonstrate the need for research. You and I together can speak out forcefully about this need. We can speak out forcefully about the need to erase the stigma connected with mental illness -- and about the need for communities to support -- in every sense of the word -- those who have been or are afflicted.

I feel fortunate to be in the position I am in and to have some little bit of influence and to feel a sense of kinship with you who are involved in mental health work. And very soon I plan to expand my own horizons on an international level.

Last month in Vancouver at the World Congress on Mental Health, I discovered that the Mental Health section of the World Health Organization is waiting for the report of the President's Commission on Mental Health. The Director told me that our report would be sent to Ministers of Health all over the world.

I realize we can learn from other nations, too. That is why I am looking forward to my trip with Jimmy next month to four continents. I am hoping that I will have time to meet with those who are working in the mental health field. And I shall be interested in the research they are undertaking. After all, the pursuit of basic knowledge is a bond that we all here today share -- and share with the world.

I intend to listen to those in other countries. But I also intend to talk to them about our own hopes for the future -- and about such concepts in treatment as those you have developed for Mailman Center.

The message I can carry is very clear. We are working here to enhance the quality of life for all Americans. And what we learn -- and apply -- can enhance the quality of life for everyone.

It has been a great privilege to be here today, and I want to congratulate every single person who has made a contribution to the creation of Mailman Center.

Thank you.

September 27, 1977

*file
with other
data on trip*

Dear Bob,

I would like to take this opportunity to confirm our earlier conversation about reimbursement to the government by The Susan L. Curtis Foundation for a portion of the travel expenses associated with Mrs. Carter's trip to Boston on October 3rd. Since she will also be involved in other activities on this trip, the expenses which you will be reimbursing will only be a portion of those of the total trip.

Although The Susan L. Curtis Foundation is a non-partisan, charitable organization, we have decided that acceptance of your offer for reimbursement of these expenses would be appropriate in view of the fact that the event is in honor of the National Democratic Committee Chairman.

We anticipate the portion of expenses attributable to the attendance at the reception and dinner will be approximately \$1,000.00. We shall advise you of the specific amounts involved and the procedures for reimbursement immediately after the event.

Could you please advise me as to whom this expense information should be directed.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Jane S. Fenderson
Appointments Secretary
to Rosalynn Carter

Robert J. Dunfey
Trustee
The Susan L. Curtis Foundation
157 High Street
Portland, Maine 04101

bcc: Val Giannini
Mary Hoyt

wd

MRS. CARTER'S REMARKS

GOOD EVENING. IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK IN NEW ENGLAND.

WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT OUR POLITICAL FORTUNES WERE GREATLY ENHANCED HERE OVER A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, I WOULD LOVE THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY ANYWAY.

I LEARNED TO LOVE NEW ENGLAND BEFORE EITHER JIMMY OR I EVER HAD ANY IDEA THAT HE WOULD GO INTO POLITICS. JIMMY WAS STATIONED IN THE NAVY IN NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT, ON TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS, AND OUR YOUNGEST SON, JEFF, WAS BORN THERE. IT WAS A HAPPY TIME FOR US.

SO THAT'S ANOTHER REASON FOR MY ATTACHMENT TO NEW ENGLAND;

-2-

I HAVE A YANKEE SON -- AT LEAST HE WAS TEMPORARILY. AND I AM GLAD TO BE BACK.

WE ARE HERE TOGETHER FOR A VERY SPECIAL REASON. AND THAT REASON IS CAMP SUSAN CURTIS, WHICH WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SUSAN CURTIS FOUNDATION.

IT IS TYPICAL OF KEN CURTIS THAT HE WOULD FIND A WAY TO TURN HIS PRIVATE GRIEF INTO SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL -- A LIVING MEMORIAL THAT BENEFITS YOUNG CHILDREN IN NEED. SOMETHING THAT PROVES LIFE HAS MEANING. SOMETHING THAT MAKES US FEEL HOPEFUL AND GOOD.

THERE ARE FEW THINGS THAT COULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR AN UNDER-PRIVILEGED CHILD THAN A FEW WEEKS IN THE MAINE WOODS BY A

BEAUTIFUL CLEAR LAKE, WITH FRESH AIR, GOOD FOOD, FRIENDSHIP AND A CARING ADULT STAFF.

A FINE CAMP CAN MAKE AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE IN A YOUNG CHILD'S LIFE. FOR SOME CHILDREN, IT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE. ASIDE FROM THE MANY HEALTHY BENEFITS TO MIND, BODY AND SOUL THAT CAMP SUSAN CURTIS IMPARTS, IT ALSO OFFERS THE CHANCE TO LEARN NEW SKILLS; IT PROVIDES A LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT OPENS UP NEW HORIZONS.

IT IS A WONDERFUL COINCIDENCE THAT THIS DAY WAS DESIGNATED CHILD HEALTH DAY. LET ME READ TO YOU JUST PART OF THE PROCLAMATION JIMMY ISSUED. IT SAYS:

I INVITE ALL AMERICANS, AS WELL AS ALL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN, TO UNITE -- AND HE MEANS ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY -- IN SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES THAT WILL ALERT EACH OF US TO OUR SEPARATE AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE HEALTH OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN SAFETY AND TO GROW UP STRONG AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THEIR OWN AND THEIR FAMILIES' HEALTH NEEDS.

MARGARET MEAD SAID THAT WHEN WE SELECT FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US, OUR WHOLE SOCIETY IS HUMANIZED. I SHARE HER BELIEF.

THE WELFARE OF ALL YOUNG CHILDREN IS PERHAPS THE BIGGEST RESPONSIBILITY WE HAVE AS CITIZENS.

WE LIVE IN AN INCREASINGLY TRANSIENT, TECHNOLOGICAL AND FRIENDLESS SOCIETY, AND IT HURTS PEOPLE.

AS YOU KNOW, I AM FROM ONE OF THOSE RURAL FARMING COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE ELSE, WHERE RELATIVES LIVE CLOSE BY, WHERE ONE IS SUPPORTED BY LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS. MANY OF YOU SHARE THESE FORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES. AS I CAMPAIGNED AROUND THE COUNTRY LAST YEAR, I WAS CONSTANTLY STRUCK BY THE LACK OF THAT KIND OF SUPPORT FOR SO MANY.

AND THE CHILDREN SEEM ALWAYS THE VICTIMS OF THIS ROOTLESSNESS AND LACK OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT. THAT IS ONE REASON I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IF JIMMY WERE ELECTED PRESIDENT I WOULD WORK TO HELP CREATE A MORE CARING SOCIETY. A SOCIETY IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT AND CARE FOR OTHERS.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TONIGHT. TO TALK ABOUT GIVING FIRST CONSIDERATION TO THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US. ONE SURE WAY TO DO THIS IS BY WHAT YOU HERE HAVE DONE BY YOUR SUPPORT OF CAMP SUSAN CURTIS, NOT ONLY AS A SINGLE GESTURE OF ONE FORTUNATE INDIVIDUAL TO ANOTHER LESS FORTUNATE, BUT AS A LARGER COMMITMENT -- A PLEDGE TO BE A WITNESS TO THE PLIGHT OF OTHERS AND TO TAKE ACTION TO CORRECT THAT PLIGHT.

THIS SPIRIT CAN BE CONTAGIOUS. LET'S ALL HELP TO MAKE IT SO. LET'S TAKE THAT RESPONSIBILITY NOW, ON CHILD HEALTH DAY. AND ON THIS EVENING WHEN WE CAN SHARE A SENSE OF COMMITMENT AS WE REMEMBER KEN AND POLLY AND WHAT THE LIFE OF A CHILD CAN MEAN TO ALL OF US.

THANK YOU.

Suggested remarks for RSC to make at the dedication of the
Mailman Psychobiological Center at McLean Hospital - Belmont, Mass.
October 3, 1977

Research Task Panel -
Dr. Seymour Kety

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~~But our resources are still too scarce.~~

As most of you know, we have just submitted to Jimmy the first tentative findings of our President's Commission on Mental Health.

And our report calls for more federal support for research.

In fact, research money is the only money that we have asked for at this time.

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And a 30% increase in the research budget of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

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~~But~~ ^{And so we hope on a Federal level we can do more research.} ~~Government cannot and should not assume the responsibility for all research.~~

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By the

Because ^{can a powerful}
~~And we need~~ an informed public ~~to be~~ ^{our ally}
 and ~~We need this support~~
~~I hope that I can help to further this goal.~~

~~I have learned that in my unique position I can influence~~
^{You demonstrate the need for research}
~~public attitudes.~~ ^{You and I together can}

~~And I intend to speak out as forcefully as I can about the~~
~~need for research funds~~
^{we can speak out forcefully on stigma?}
 About the need to erase the shame connected with mental illness. _____

and About the need for communities to support -- in every sense of
 the word -- those who have been or are afflicted.

~~It is truly an exciting time to be involved.~~
^{to be in the position I am in}
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^{very soon}
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 I discovered ~~how much the developing world is looking to us for guidance.~~
 PCMT. The director told me that our report would be sent to Ministers of Health
^{All over the world.} ~~And how much we can learn from other, more sophisticated nations of the world.~~
^{I realize}

That is why I am looking forward to my trip with Jimmy next month
 to four continents.

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 working in the mental health field.

And I shall be interested in the research they are undertaking.

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