

New Orleans, Louisiana, 11/4/77

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RIVERCENTER

Very sentimental about

I AM SO GLAD TO BE HERE IN NEW ORLEANS TODAY.

THIS IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES IN AMERICA.

IT IS RICH IN HISTORY, UNIQUE IN ARCHITECTURE, SPECIALLY GRACED BY NATURE.

AND AS THE THIRD LARGEST PORT IN THE WORLD, IT BINDS OUR COUNTRY TO OTHER
NATIONS.

WITH THE ADVENT OF THIS GREATLY EXPANDED AND MODERNIZED TERMINAL, NEW ORLEANS
WILL NOW BECOME EVEN MORE OF A MAGNET TO COMMERCE AND TO WORLD TRAVELERS.

IT WILL OPEN UP GREAT NEW VISTAS FOR PEOPLE OF MANY NATIONS AND MANY CULTURES.

AND I APPLAUD THE IMAGINATION AND EFFORT THAT WENT INTO CREATING A FINE NEW
FACILITY THAT OFFERS BETTER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES
AND THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

THIS PART OF THE WORLD IS SPECIAL TO ME.

vacation

~~naughty - tyrrago -~~

Very sentimental about this city

RIVERCENTER - 2

JUST YESTERDAY, I WAS IN MEXICO WITH MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO, THE WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, DISCUSSING WAYS TO BLEND OUR CULTURES IN THE BORDER AREAS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

AND I AM SURE THAT YOU KNOW THAT JIMMY SENT ME AS HIS PERSONAL EMISSARY TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AS EVIDENCE OF HIS DEEP INTEREST IN WORKING TOWARD OUR COMMON GOALS IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT.

THIS REGION IS SO IMPORTANT TO US.

IT IS RICH WITH POTENTIAL.

WE HAVE POWERFUL REASONS FOR KEEPING OPEN ALL CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION HERE - BOTH IN COMMERCE AND IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.

AND SO THE EXISTENCE OF THIS FINE NEW TERMINAL IS INDEED CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

NOVEMBER 4, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

DEDICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RIVERCENTER CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

First Lady Rosalynn Carter will participate today in the dedication of the International Rivercenter Cruise Ship Terminal at the Poydras Street Wharf in New Orleans. She will pay tribute to the increased opportunities for cultural exchange between the United States and Mexico and other Latin American and Caribbean countries that the new facility will afford.

Situated at the riverside doorstep of the new New Orleans Hilton Hotel, the Cruise Ship Terminal is part of a \$250 million urban waterfront complex which includes stores, recreational facilities, restaurants, condominiums, office buildings and parking space for over 2,500 cars.

The International Rivercenter Cruise Ship Terminal is operated by the Board of Port Commissioners for the City of New Orleans. This Board is a constitutional agency entrusted with the operation of all of the wharves in metropolitan New Orleans.

In operation since 1974, the Cruise Ship Terminal has handled over 100,000 passengers to date -- over 60,000 of which have disembarked on the eastern seaboard of Mexico. With its newly expanded facilities, the Terminal will be able to handle many thousands more passengers each year through its permanent tenants, two international cruise lines and a Mississippi River excursion line.

New Orleans, the third largest port in the world and the second largest port in the United States, after New York, has long been a great trade center. It has been in operation as a passenger service port for the last three years only.

Mrs. Carter's appearance at the dedication ceremony today is part of a two-day trip that has taken her from Washington, D. C., to El Paso, Texas, and to Chamizal and Juarez, Mexico, where she met with Mrs. Carmen Romo de Lopez Portillo, wife of the President of Mexico. After the dedication of the Cruise Ship Terminal today, Mrs. Carter will address the 28th Annual Convention of the National Association for Retarded Citizens at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans. Mrs. Carter will return to Washington later this afternoon.

PLATFORM GUESTS - INTERNATIONAL CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL DEDICATION - NOVEMBER 4, 1977

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Mrs. Rosalynn Carter

Lt. Governor James E. Fitzmorris, Jr.

Mayor Moon Landrieu - New Orleans, Louisiana

John Laborde - President, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans

Lester Kabacoff - Managing Partner, International Rivercenter

Honorable Lindy Boggs - Member of Congress

Reverend John P. Vandercook - Chaplain, Baptist Seamen's Church

Captain M. Bozovic - Executive Vice President, March Shipping Passenger Services

Hon. Norman Amort - Consul General of Nicaragua, Dean of New Orleans Consular Corps

Michael J. Molony, Jr. - Board of Commissioners of Port of New Orleans

John Meghrian - Board of Commissioners of Port of New Orleans

Roy J. Gross - Board of Commissioners of Port of New Orleans

Frank G. Strachan - Board of Commissioners of Port of New Orleans

Joseph Frederick, Jr. - Vice President and General Manager, Hilton Hotel

Henry G. Joffray - Associate Port Director, Board of Commissioners of Port of
New Orleans

Herbert K. Haar, Jr. - Associate Port Director, Board of Commissioners of Port
of New Orleans

THE QUILT WHICH TONY ORLANDO IS PRESENTING TO MRS. CARTER FOR AMY
WAS MADE AT THE FRED T. HATCHER CENTER IN DANVILLE, VIRGINIA
BY SEVEN RETARDED YOUNG ADULTS, AGES 20- 24.

The quilt symbolizes Orlando's song, Tie A Yellow Ribbon..

The students at the Center who made the quilt are:

Timmy Combs, 20

Vickie Motley, 24

Sandra Hyler, 20

Deborah Ingram, 22

Howard Courtney, 21

Page Watson, (early 20's)

Nancy Womack, 24

10:40

Leone McCree

2281 Ann Edwards

LSC - Recognize Bob Mugler in Audience

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

RETARDED CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN
WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

First Lady Rosalynn Carter announced today that the White House Christmas tree this year will be decorated by ornaments made by retarded citizens from all over the United States. Mrs. Carter's announcement came on the occasion of her speech to the 28th Annual Convention of the National Association for Retarded Citizens at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans.

The theme of the six-day Convention, which will be attended by approximately 2,000 persons, is "Together We Can Do More".

Paul Marchand
Mrs. Carter enlisted the aid of the National Association for Retarded Citizens (NARC) last summer in coordinating this project. Under the direction of NARC's 1,808 local and state units, these ornaments are being made by retarded children and adults in special education classes and work activity centers in most of the 50 states.

The ornaments will represent, in many cases, the particular region from which they come. A group of retarded adults in Eureka, California, for instance, will submit ornaments made from California redwood. From New Orleans will come ornaments with a Mardi Gras theme.

At the time of her announcement of this special Christmas project, Mrs. Carter showed the Convention one of the first ornaments to be completed: a miniature Christmas tree made of Mardi Gras beads and created by 26-year-old Steve Armstrong in an arts and crafts class at the Gumbel Vocational Training Center in New Orleans.

Each year, the National Christmas Tree Grower's Association, Inc. meets to choose one of its members as the national grand champion grower. He in turn selects the White House tree. This year, the J. Hofert Company of Olympia, Washington was chosen, as it was once before in 1972.

The tree will be flown to Washington at the expense of the company and will be delivered to the White House at the Northwest Gate on Thursday, December 8, 1977.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

REMARKS: ROSALYNN CARTER
DEDICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RIVERCENTER CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
November 4, 1977

I am so glad to be here in New Orleans today.

This is certainly one of the most beautiful cities in America.

It is rich in history, unique in architecture, specially graced by nature.

And as the third largest port in the world, it binds our country to other nations.

With the advent of this greatly expanded and modernized terminal, New Orleans will now become even more of a magnet to commerce and to world travelers.

It will open up great new vistas for people of many nations and many cultures.

And I applaud the imagination and effort that went into creating a fine new facility that offers better communications between the peoples of the United States and the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This part of the world is special to me.

Just yesterday, I was in Mexico with Mrs. Lopez Portillo, the wife of the President of Mexico, discussing ways to blend our cultures in the border areas of our two countries.

And I am sure that you know that Jimmy sent me as his personal emissary to Latin America and the Caribbean as evidence of his deep interest in working toward our common goals in a spirit of mutual respect.

This region is so important to us.

It is rich with potential.

We have powerful reasons for keeping open all channels of communication here -- both in commerce and in human relationships.

And so the existence of this fine new terminal is indeed cause for celebration.

I am delighted to be here to acknowledge its significance and to tell you that I know what you have accomplished here will contribute to furthering hemispheric goodwill.

#



NARC
newsletter
Nov-Dec

Rosalynn Carter admires the handsewn quilt made by Hatcher Carter, Danville, VA, which was presented prior to her Convention appearance. The quilt is made of many small, dark, irregular patches, possibly representing a map or a complex pattern.

FIRST LADY SPEAKS — Mrs. Carter addresses delegates at close of morning business session and talks of her experiences with mental retardation and hopes for the future.

First Lady displays sincere regard, concern for mentally retarded persons

"We must force the public to recognize the difference between being overlooked as a non-person—and being recognized and treated and cherished as a valuable human being," Rosalynn Carter told delegates at the 28th NARC Annual Convention.

Appearing at the close of a morning business session, the nation's First Lady urged delegates to continue to lobby for retarded citizens by disseminating information and sensitizing legislators, policy-makers and professionals to the great progress that has been made in such a short time, and to the promise of the future.

"I am proud to support this effort from those dedicated advocates who are volunteering to help the retarded in so many communities today," Mrs. Carter continued.

"Anyone who still doubts that it is worthwhile to train retarded persons should consider the following," Mrs. Carter pointed out. "An economist at HEW reports that for every dollar that is spent on educating the retarded adult male, \$14.00 is returned during the individual's lifetime."

As an example of a concerned citizen, Mrs. Carter quoted from a letter she had received from a Washington lawyer, which read: "The problems of the mentally retarded individual can never be given too much attention, but until now the problems of the parents and the brothers and sisters reacting to the trauma of seeing a loved one so afflicted has not been given the concern which is needed."

Mrs. Carter referred to the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which guarantees and mandates the right of every child to an education regardless of disability and said that it often would be up to such persons as the delegates themselves to be sure

that the Act is implemented locally.

"You play a very important role in assuring that federal policy is responsive to the needs of all retarded persons," Mrs. Carter told the assemblage.

The First Lady drew an analogy to progress in the mental retardation field and illustrated what mentally retarded individuals are capable of by referring to a recent series of articles in the *Washington Post* which told the experiences of Roger Meyers, now a 29-year-old, steadily employed retarded citizen living in California. The series was written by a *Washington Post* reporter, Bob Meyers, who is Roger's older brother. It told of his family's 20-year search for help for their retarded son.

But the story has a happy ending, as Mrs. Carter pointed out. Roger was aware of his worth, accepted his limitations, started living an independent life and married a girl he met at the residential community. Now he and his wife live much as others do.

"Roger's life proves that we must widen our definition of what is normal in society," Mrs. Carter stated.

She quoted Roger himself as saying: "People are retarded by what they don't know. That's why I work so hard to learn the things I don't know and become more normal."

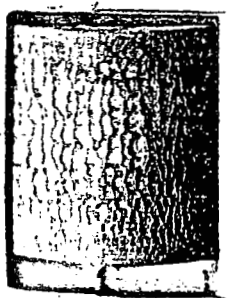
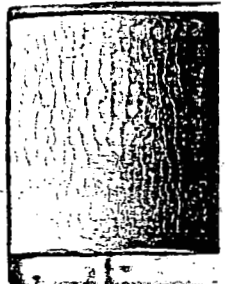
As honorary chairman of the President's Commission on Mental Health, she thanked the Association for its contributions. She said that the Commission had gone to NARC where it asked for and received the Association's recommendations.

"They are being studied in great detail," she added, "and the Commission will continue to work closely with the Association as the final report is being prepared."

Author of newspaper series talks about retarded brother

Robert Meyers, whom Rosalynn Carter referred to in her NARC Convention address as the author of the series of outstanding articles in the *Washington Post* about his retarded brother, has taken a leave of absence from the *Post* to turn the series into a book which

A voluble and deeply motivated young man who obviously is proud of his brother's progress, Meyers told *Mental Retardation News* that he had wanted to write about his brother for a long time but waited until Roger finally was married because he didn't want the articles to influence his brother's decision. Meyers also said he had made every effort to give the series an objective, unsentimental and unemotional approach, which he believes accounts to some de-



REMARKS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETARDED CITIZENS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 4, 1977

I'M GLAD TO BE HERE TO HELP YOU CELEBRATE YOUR NATIONAL CONVENTION.

IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE A CHANCE TO ^{say thank} ~~SALUTE~~ YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE
DONE FOR THE 6 MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE RETARDED.

IN 1950, WHEN YOUR GROUP WAS JUST BEING FORMED, THE COMMON VIEW
ABOUT THE MENTALLY RETARDED WAS THIS: ^{It is very sad} ~~THESE ARE SAD PEOPLE~~ , . THEY CAN-
NOT BE EDUCATED , . THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THE REST OF US OR ACT LIKE THE
REST OF US , . AND THE ONLY THING TO DO IS PUT THEM AWAY IN AN INSTITUTION
OR HIDE THEM AT HOME AS A FAMILY SECRET.

LET ME TELL YOU A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT AFFECTED ME DEEPLY.
WHEN JIMMY RESIGNED FROM THE NAVY IN THE EARLY 1950s, WE MOVED INTO A
SMALL HOUSE IN GEORGIA THAT HAD A STRANGE LITTLE ROOM IN THE ATTIC, CUT
OFF FROM THE REST OF THE HOUSE. JACK AND CHIP - THEY WERE GROWING BOYS -
EXPLORERS - WERE THE ONES WHO DISCOVERED THE ROOM AND ITS ALMOST INVISIBLE
ENTRANCE. THERE WAS TALK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT OUR HOUSE WAS HAUNTED,
BUT OTHERS HINTED THAT A PERSON MIGHT HAVE LIVED IN THAT ROOM. IT CHILLS
ME TO THINK OF IT EVEN TODAY. I LEARNED THEN THAT IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON TO
KEEP SOME PEOPLE OUT OF SIGHT IN LITTLE ROOMS. AND THAT IS WHAT HAS BEEN
~~Not a pleasant story. But it happened. And the fact that people would even think of~~
~~haunting me about that house since those days, that for as much as we were~~
~~of a time, the history of the treatment of the retarded~~
WHEN I SAY "THOSE DAYS", I SOUND AS IF I AM RECALLING AN ERA LONG
~~1950s when so many were being feared~~
GONE. BUT AFTER ALL, THAT WAS THE MID-20TH-CENTURY. WE WERE A RICH AND
POWERFUL NATION. IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT WE COULD SEND A MAN TO THE MOON.

TELEVISION SETS WERE COMMANDING AUTHORITY IN MILLIONS OF AMERICAN LIVING ROOMS.

WE SEEMED SO INCREDIBLY ADVANCED.

BUT IN THE 1950s, AS YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, OUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THOSE SPECIAL PEOPLE WAS ALMOST NON-EXISTANT. WE DID NOT EVEN HAVE A DIGNIFIED TERM FOR THEM. AND SO YOU DECIDED TO SET OUT TO CHANGE PUBLIC ATTITUDES ABOUT A SUBJECT THAT NO ONE WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT, MUCH LESS DISCUSS.

YOURS IS A SUCCESS STORY. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY EFFECTIVE IN FOSTERING PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I READ SOMETHING THAT ILLUMINATED THE PROFOUND CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE EARLY 1950s - IN JUST THE LIFETIME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. IT WAS THE LIFE STORY OF A YOUNG MAN NAMED ROGER MEYERS, NOW A 29-YEAR-OLD RETARDED CITIZEN LIVING IN CALIFORNIA. HIS HISTORY WAS TOLD IN A FIVE-PART SERIES IN THE WASHINGTON POST BY A REPORTER NAMED BOB MEYERS. HE HAPPENS TO BE ROGER'S OLDER BROTHER. THAT FACT ALONE WAS COMPELLING - THAT A JOURNALIST COULD WRITE WITH EXCRUCIATING ^{such} FRANKNESS ABOUT A FAMILY MEMBER WHO WAS RETARDED.

BUT WHAT EXCITED ME THE MOST WAS THAT THE WASHINGTON POST PRINTED IT WITH A BANNER - ON THE FRONT PAGE - AS NEWS!

I DEVoured THE STORY OF ROGER MEYERS, AS DID SO MANY OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHERE THE SERIES WAS REPRINTED. AND I AM STILL DEEPLY MOVED. Moving

ROGER MEYERS WAS RETARDED AT HIS BIRTH IN 1948. AND THUS BEGAN A NEARLY 20-YEAR SEARCH BY HIS PARENTS FOR SOMEONE WHO COULD EXPLAIN HIS CONDITION . . OR TREAT IT . . OR OFFER HELPFUL GUIDELINES. BUT ROGER'S PARENTS COULD NOT EVEN GET AN ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS. THEY WERE TOLD THAT THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE AMERICAN MEDICAL COMMUNITY WHO SPECIALIZED IN THE PROBLEM OF RETARDATION.

AND THE LITANY OF FRUSTRATION OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IS ONE YOU KNOW TOO WELL. WHERE TO GO? WHERE TO GET HELP? WHOM TO BELIEVE?

ONLY LAST WEEK, BOB MEYERS TOLD ME THAT IN THE AVALANCHE OF LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS HE HAS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF THE WASHINGTON POST SERIES, THE SAME QUESTIONS EMERGE TODAY. WHERE TO GO? WHERE TO GET HELP? WHOM TO BELIEVE? THIS IS A MANDATE YOU MUST CONSIDER.

IN ROGER'S YOUNG LIFETIME, HE WAS ENROLLED FOR SIX YEARS IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL AND ALLOWED TO WORK AT HIS OWN SPEED. IN SOME WAYS HE WAS LUCKIER THAN MOST. HE SUFFERED SOME HUMILIATION AND HAD DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING UP, BUT HE HAD DEVELOPED THE SELF-IMAGE OF A PERSON WHO WAS AWARE OF HIS WORTH AND ACCEPTED HIS LIMITATIONS.

AND THINGS WERE BEGINNING TO CHANGE. THE NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT, JOHN F. KENNEDY, WAS SPEAKING OUT ABOUT HIS RETARDED SISTER AND HIS

AFFECTION FOR HER. HE CREATED THE PRESIDENT'S PANEL ON MENTAL RETARDATION, WHICH STUDIED AND MADE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON LATER CREATED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION. AND PROFESSIONALS WERE COMING TO REALIZE THAT MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE BELONGED IN THE COMMUNITY, NOT ISOLATED FROM THE WORLD.

ROGER'S STORY IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS SHIFT IN THE CONCEPT OF CARE. HE MOVED FROM A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY INTO A SMALL APARTMENT COMPLEX WITH COUNSELORS ON EACH FLOOR WHO TAUGHT HIM TO PERFORM THE BASIC CHORES OF DAILY LIFE - SHOPPING, COOKING, BUDGETING, HOME MAINTENANCE - THINGS HE HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO BEFORE. EVENTUALLY, HE MOVED OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY ON HIS OWN.

IN JUST A FEW YEARS, ROGER STARTED TO LIVE A NEARLY INDEPENDENT LIFE. HE MARRIED A GIRL HE MET AT THE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY - SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE EVEN 10 YEARS BEFORE. AND NOW THEY LIVE MUCH AS OTHERS LIVE.

ROGER'S LIFE PROVES THIS: WE MUST WIDEN OUR DEFINITION OF WHAT IS NORMAL IN SOCIETY. AS HE HIMSELF SAYS, "PEOPLE ARE RETARDED BY WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW. THAT'S WHY I WORK SO HARD TO LEARN THE THINGS I DON'T KNOW AND BECOME MORE NORMAL."

NARC HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC GESTURE IN BROADENING THE DEFINITION OF WHAT IS NORMAL. YOU SUBSTITUTED THE WORD "CITIZENS" FOR THE WORD "CHILDREN" IN THE TITLE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. BY CHANGING YOUR NAME FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR RETARDED CITIZENS, YOU SALUTED THE FACT THAT CHILDREN ARE ALSO
CITIZENS, AND THAT THERE ARE ADULTS WHO ARE ALSO RETARDED AND NEED OUR
 HELP. AND THAT WHAT WE MUST REALLY ADDRESS IS THE BROAD ISSUE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS FOR ALL.

*We hear about human rights often today. But
 we usually think about other civil & political oppression*

~~AS YOU KNOW, THIS ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS.~~
~~AND WHEN JIMMY SPEAKS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HE MEANS NOT ONLY FREEDOM FROM~~
 POLITICAL OPPRESSION . . BUT ALSO THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE - YOUNG AND OLD,
 HEALTHY, ILL, RETARDED - TO BE FED, CLOTHED, TO HAVE A DECENT PLACE TO LIVE
 AND THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION. ~~TODAY WE MUST DEFINE HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS~~
~~BROADEST SENSE.~~

AS YOU ALSO KNOW, CONGRESS HAS ENACTED IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THAT
 JIMMY SUPPORTS FULLY CALLED THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT.
 IT GUARANTEES THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND MANDATES THAT RIGHT FOR EVERY
 SINGLE CHILD REGARDLESS OF THE DEGREE OF DISABILITY. ~~REALITY~~ ^{IT} REQUIRES
 ADEQUATE FEDERAL FUNDS, STARTING NEXT YEAR. ~~IT WILL BE PARTIALLY UP TO~~ ^{you can do much (NARA)}
~~YOU IN NARA TO SEE THAT THIS ACT IS IMPLEMENTED~~ LOCALLY.

IT WAS ~~UNIQUE~~ FOR ~~ROGER MEYERS~~ TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH NORMAL CHILDREN.
 TODAY THE ~~LAW~~ MAKES THIS POSSIBLE.

^{a very imp. role}
 YOU ~~HAVE SUCH A ROLE TO PLAY~~ ^{IN} ASSURING THAT FEDERAL POLICY IS
RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL MENTALLY RETARDED CITIZENS. ~~IN MY CAPACITY~~
 AS HONORARY CHAIRPERSON OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH, I
 WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS THAT YOU HAVE ~~MADE TO~~
~~OUR DELIBERATIONS.~~ THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT YOU HAVE SUBMITTED, AS WELL AS

Ga. Asso.
for Retarded
Citizens
d with—

THOSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION, ARE BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED RIGHT NOW. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU AS WE PROCEED WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE FINAL REPORT. April

~~OF COURSE THE NEEDS OF MENTALLY RETARDED CITIZENS ARE FAR TOO GREAT TO BE MET BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALONE. SOME THINGS ARE DONE BETTER BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. I NOTED ON YOUR PROGRAM THAT EUNICE SHRIVER WAS HERE YESTERDAY TALKING ABOUT THE NEW "LET'S PLAY TO GROW" PROGRAM. IT IS EXCITING TO ME THAT THE CONCEPT OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS IS BEING EXPANDED. I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH RETARDED CITIZENS FOR MANY YEARS NOW. VOLUNTEER WHAT IN THIS WAY, FOR I WORKED WITH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN GEORGIA AND I KNOW WHAT A POWERFUL PROGRAM IT IS. THIS PROGRAM HAS SHOWN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WHAT RETARDED PEOPLE CAN DO - WHICH IS TO SAY, JUST ABOUT ANYTHING - WITH VOLUNTEER SUPPORT AND TRAINING. IT IS AN EXAMPLE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AT ITS BEST.~~

so much media attention

Regional Hospital

it has encouraged volunteer involvement - when people know more about the retarded and better understand & work with them - then it becomes so much easier to broaden our definition of acceptable.

ANYONE WHO STILL DOUBTS THAT IT IS WORTHWHILE TO TRAIN RETARDED PERSONS SHOULD CONSIDER THIS: AN ECONOMIST AT H.E.W. REPORTS THAT FOR EVERY DOLLAR THAT IS SPENT ON EDUCATING THE RETARDED ADULT MALE, \$14 IS RETURNED DURING THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFETIME.

Media attention is so imp.

BOB MEYERS TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY THAT THE RESPONSE TO ROGER'S STORY IN THE WASHINGTON POST PROMPTED MORE READER MAIL THAN ANY OTHER CURRENT ISSUE EXCEPT THE PANAMA CANAL! JUST THINK WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF WE CAN PERSUADE THE MEDIA TO KEEP TELLING THE ROGER STORIES. ~~The media is influential & can be very helpful & aid in some of your goals~~

WE SIMPLY MUST CONTINUE TO LOBBY FOR RETARDED CITIZENS BY DISSEMINATING INFORMATION, SENSITIZING LEGISLATORS AND POLICY-MAKERS AND PROFESSIONALS TO

One other
~~point~~ area
that I want
to mention —

~~THE GREAT PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME AND TO THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE. WE MUST DRAW OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS EFFORT FROM THOSE DEDICATED ADVOCATES WHO ARE VOLUNTEERING TO HELP THE RETARDED IN SO MANY COMMUNITIES TODAY. AND JUST LISTEN TO THIS LETTER~~ I RECEIVED FROM A ^{A letter}

LAWYER IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID: "THE PROBLEMS OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED INDIVIDUAL CAN NEVER BE GIVEN TOO MUCH ATTENTION, BUT UNTIL NOW THE PROBLEMS OF THE PARENTS AND THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS REACTING TO THE TRAUMA OF SEEING A LOVED ONE SO AFFLICTED HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE CONCERN WHICH IS NEEDED."

This is an imp. point that I wanted to bring up to you. my mail to Bob Meyer's mail above that parents & families need special help.

WE ARE AT THE POINT NOW WHERE WE CAN ACTUALLY TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DRASTICALLY REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF RETARDATION. THROUGH IMMUNIZATION . . THROUGH BETTER PRENATAL AND POST-NATAL CARE . . THROUGH SCREENING OF HIGH-RISK FAMILIES . . THROUGH EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF PROBLEMS IN INFANTS. WE KNOW THAT IF ALL EXISTING MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE WERE APPLIED RIGHT NOW, THE INCIDENCE OF MENTAL RETARDATION COULD BE REDUCED BY HALF.

We need more research funds - & we need to search for ways to apply the information that we already have about prevention

~~I COMMIT MYSELF TO HELP GETTING THIS WORD TO THE PUBLIC. INDEED, I AM PROUD TO BE~~ ^{involved with you & to be} A SMALL PART OF YOUR STRUGGLE TO EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITIES TO THE REALITIES OF MENTAL RETARDATION.

OUR MESSAGE IS REALLY QUITE SIMPLE: JUST AS SOME OF US THINK AND MOVE FASTER, SOME OF US THINK AND MOVE SLOWER. RETARDATION IS A FACT OF LIFE AND IT CAN - AND IS - BEING DEALT WITH COMPASSIONATELY.

~~WE MUST FOR~~ ^{must} THE PUBLIC ~~RECOGNIZE~~ ¹ THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING OVERLOOKED AS A NON-PERSON - AND BEING RECOGNIZED AND TREATED AND CHERISHED

8.

AS A VALUABLE HUMAN BEING.

~~THOSE ARE ^{values} ~~VALUES~~ EACH OF US MUST DEMAND FOR OURSELVES AND FOR ALL
WHO ARE RETARDED.~~

THANK YOU.

#

Bob Meyers

Vacation - very sentimental

rally - 1 yr. ago -

glad to be back - one of most beautiful cities
in America -

New
Orleans
11/4 dock
ceremony

3rd largest port -

Binds our co. together with other cos.

& with this expanded & modernized terminal
will attract even more commerce & world travelers.

Mexico

& offer better communications between
the people of U.S. & C.A. & the Caribbean
- Mexico - yesterday

These cos. are the emerging nations
of the world - & we v powerful reasons
for keeping open all channels of
communications here - both in commerce
& in human relationships.

pleased to participate in the dedication
ceremony of this terminal that will mean
so much to New Orleans - and to
international goodwill.

November 4, 1977

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

REMARKS: ROSALYNN CARTER
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETARDED CITIZENS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
November 4, 1977

I'm glad to be here to help you celebrate your National Convention.

It's a privilege to have a chance to salute you for what you have done for the 6 million people in this country who are retarded.

In 1950, when your group was just being formed, the common view about the mentally retarded was this: these are sad people . . they cannot be educated . . they don't look like the rest of us or act like the rest of us . . and the only thing to do is put them away in an institution or hide them at home as a family secret.

Let me tell you a personal experience that affected me deeply. When Jimmy resigned from the Navy in the early 1950s, we moved into a small house in Georgia that had a strange little room in the attic, cut off from the rest of the house. Jack and Chip -- they were growing boys -- explorers -- were the ones who discovered the room and its almost invisible entrance. There was talk in the neighborhood that our house was haunted. But others hinted that a person might have lived in that room. It chills me to think of it even today. I learned then that it was not uncommon to keep some people out of sight in little rooms. And that is what has been haunting me about that house since those days.

When I say "those days", I sound as if I am recalling an era long gone. But after all, that was the mid-20th-century. We were a rich and powerful nation. It was conceivable that we could send a man to the moon. Television sets were commanding authority in millions of American living rooms.

We seemed so incredibly advanced.

But in the 1950s, as you know better than anyone else, our knowledge about those special people was almost non-existent. We did not even have a dignified term for them. And so you decided to set out to change public attitudes about a subject that no one wanted to hear about, much less discuss.

Yours is a success story. The National Association for Retarded Citizens has been extraordinarily effective in fostering progress in the field of mental retardation.

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A few weeks ago, I read something that illuminated the profound changes that have taken place since the early 1950s -- in just the lifetime of your organization. It was the life story of a young man named Roger Meyers, now a 29-year-old retarded citizen living in California. His history was told in a five-part series in the Washington Post by a reporter named Bob Meyers. He happens to be Roger's older brother. That fact alone was compelling -- that a journalist could write with excruciating frankness about a family member who was retarded.

But what excited me the most was that the Washington Post printed it with a banner -- on the front page -- as news!

I devoured the story of Roger Meyers, as did so many others across the country where the series was reprinted. And I am still deeply moved.

Roger Meyers was retarded at his birth in 1948. And thus began a nearly 20-year search by his parents for someone who could explain his condition . . . or treat it . . . or offer helpful guidelines. But Roger's parents could not even get an accurate diagnosis. They were told that there was no one in the American medical community who specialized in the problem of retardation.

And the litany of frustration over the next few years is one you know too well. Where to go? Where to get help? Whom to believe?

Only last week, Bob Meyers told me that in the avalanche of letters and phone calls he has received as a result of the Washington Post series, the same questions emerge today. Where to go? Where to get help? Whom to believe? This is a mandate you must consider.

In Roger's young lifetime, he was enrolled for six years in a private school and allowed to work at his own speed. In some ways he was luckier than most. He suffered some humiliation and had difficulty in keeping up, but he had developed the self-image of a person who was aware of his worth and accepted his limitations.

And things were beginning to change. The newly-elected President, John F. Kennedy, was speaking out about his retarded sister and his affection for her. He created the President's Panel on Mental Retardation, which studied and made recommendations, and President Johnson later created the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. And professionals were coming to realize that mentally retarded people belonged in the community, not isolated from the world.

Roger's story is an example of this shift in the concept of care. He moved from a residential facility into a small apartment complex with counselors on each floor who taught him to perform the basic chores of daily life -- shopping, cooking, budgeting, home maintenance -- things he had

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never been able to do before. Eventually, he moved out into the community on his own.

In just a few years, Roger started to live a nearly independent life. He married a girl he met at the residential community -- something that would have been impossible even 10 years before. And now they live much as others live.

Roger's life proves this: we must widen our definition of what is normal in society. As he himself says, "People are retarded by what they don't know. That's why I work so hard to learn the things I don't know and become more normal."

NARC has made an important symbolic gesture in broadening the definition of what is normal. You substituted the word "citizens" for the word "children" in the title of your organization. By changing your name from the National Association for Retarded Children to National Association for Retarded Citizens, you saluted the fact that children are also citizens, and that there are adults who are also retarded and need our help. And that what we must really address is the broad issue of human rights for all.

As you know, this Administration is committed to human rights. And when Jimmy speaks of human rights, he means not only freedom from political oppression . . . but also the right of all people -- young and old, healthy, ill, retarded -- to be fed, clothed, to have a decent place to live and the right to an education. Today we must define human rights in its broadest sense.

As you also know, Congress has enacted important legislation that Jimmy supports fully called the Education for All Handicapped Children Act. It guarantees the right to education and mandates that right for every single child regardless of the degree of disability. Reality requires adequate federal funds, starting next year. It will be partially up to you in NARC to see that this Act is implemented locally.

It was unique for Roger Meyers to go to school with normal children. Today the law makes this possible.

You have such a role to play in assuring that federal policy is responsive to the needs of all mentally retarded citizens. In my capacity as Honorary Chairperson of the President's Commission on Mental Health, I want to thank you for the very important contributions that you have made to our deliberations. The recommendations that you submitted, as well as those of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, are being carefully studied right now. We will continue to work closely with you as we proceed with the preparation of the final report.

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Of course the needs of mentally retarded citizens are far too great to be met by the federal government alone. Some things are done better by private organizations. I noted on your program that Eunice Shriver was here yesterday talking about the new "Let's Play to Grow" program. It is exciting to me that the concept of the Special Olympics is being expanded in this way, for I worked with the Special Olympics in Georgia and I know what a powerful program it is. This program has shown the American public what retarded people can do -- which is to say, just about anything -- with volunteer support and training. It is an example of citizen participation at its best.

Anyone who still doubts that it is worthwhile to train retarded persons should consider this: an economist at HEW reports that for every dollar that is spent on educating the retarded adult male, \$14.00 is returned during the individual's lifetime.

Bob Meyers told me the other day that the response to Roger's story in the Washington Post prompted more reader mail than any other current issue except the Panama Canal! Just think what can happen if we can persuade the media to keep telling the Roger stories.

We simply must continue to lobby for retarded citizens by disseminating information, sensitizing legislators and policy-makers and professionals to the great progress that has been made in such a short time and to the promise of the future. We must draw our support for this effort from those dedicated advocates who are volunteering to help the retarded in so many communities today. And just listen to this letter I received from a lawyer in Washington. He said: "The problems of the mentally retarded individual can never be given too much attention, but until now the problems of the parents and the brothers and sisters reacting to the trauma of seeing a loved one so afflicted has not been given the concern which is needed."

We are at the point now where we can actually talk about the possibility of drastically reducing the incidence of retardation. Through immunization . . . through better prenatal and post-natal care . . . through screening of high-risk families . . . through early detection and treatment of problems in infants. We know that if all existing medical and scientific knowledge were applied right now, the incidence of mental retardation could be reduced by half.

I commit myself to help getting this word to the public. Indeed, I am proud to be a small part of your struggle to educate our communities to the realities of mental retardation.

Our message is really quite simple: Just as some of us think and move faster, some of us think and move slower. Retardation is a fact of life and it can -- and is -- being dealt with compassionately.

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We must force the public to recognize the difference between being overlooked as a non-person -- and being recognized and treated and cherished as a valuable human being.

Those are rights each of us must demand for ourselves -- and for all who are retarded.

Thank you.

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