

Capital Capsule



from the desk of *Mrs. Margaret Price*

VICE CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES • DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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Chet Huntley's "Plain Talk" Sympathetic To The President

"It happened one evening this week at a dinner party. The conversation began with the customary barrage of indictments of President Lyndon Johnson . . . the credibility gap, the Vietnam War, the state of our cities, the presence of poverty, the riots of American Negroes, the state of our alliance with Europe, and so on.

Finally, a bright young New York attorney spoke up. He came on with a rush of words and there were startling little evidences of deep concern and deep feeling in the pitch of his voice. He began by saying that as a lawyer he could think of no more attractive case than to defend the President of the United States against his detractors in front of any reputable jury or any fair jury.

The attorney then said that his defense would rest on the solid premise that it is not Lyndon B. Johnson who has created or exacerbated the problems and dilemmas which bother us. Rather, he said, the problems and dilemmas were there and that this President has had the misfortune to be in office at a time when they have become most painful. The attorney declared that far from ducking problems or doing nothing about them, this President has had the daring to call problems to national attention. Poverty was an example. The attorney said that in his opinion this country might have gone on paying little attention to poverty for a few more years, but it was Lyndon B. Johnson who called the attention of the nation to it, and tried to do something about it.

Concerning the credibility gap, the attorney lashed into that issue and called it a hackneyed cliché employed by a section of the population which is too soft to endure dilemmas and to face the unknown. Having no immediate solutions to some of our current dilemmas, he said, we turn to the lame excuse that our President has not told us all and therefore we are confused.

Our attorney friend reached his peroration with a challenge that we name any other contemporary American whom we would have preferred in the White House at this time and who could have solved the problems and spared us some of our current anxiety. He finally ended with the statement that he was not really a Democrat and he was certainly not a Lyndon B. Johnson Democrat but he was getting tired of the abuse being heaped upon the President.

It was a memorable evening. It had been a long time since any of us had heard a defense of the President. I think it had a sharp effect. Some of us went away with a queasy and uneasy feeling that this unrest and angry talk and complaint is not a case of the man . . . but rather it is a case of the time and the state of things."

EMPHASIS—NBC NEWS
September 21, 1967



NEWS FLASHES from OWA

✓ Ever since women have been members of the Armed Forces, laws governing their appointment and promotion have allowed less opportunity for them than for men. In a colorful ceremony in the East Room of the White House, President Johnson signed into law a bill giving women in the Armed Forces equal opportunity with their male counterparts. The legislation culminates 25 years of effort to provide equal opportunity to women in the armed services of which there are currently 35,179. It enhances the role of women in uniform in encouraging military careers.

Present at the East Room ceremony were servicewomen and former servicewomen, including directors and former directors of the WAC, WAVES, WAF, Women Marines, the three Nurse Corps, and the three Women's Medical Service Corps. High ranking male officers were there too, including members of the Joint Chief of Staff. So were several women Members of Congress and your own Vice Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Price. Members and former members of the entirely civilian Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services—prominent business and professional women from all parts of the United States—came to Washington to witness the ceremony. DACOWITS, as the committee is called, played an important role in urging the passage of the law.

Several days previously, President Johnson continued his efforts to open employment opportunities for women by signing an Executive Order prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sex in Federal employment, employment by Federal contractors and subcontractors, and employment on Federally assisted construction. The order signed on October 13 amends a September, 1965, Executive Order that outlaws discrimination in these employment areas on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin.

Although the new executive order does not substantially alter the employer coverage under prohibitions against sex discrimination established by 1962 Civil Service Commission regulations and the 1964 Civil Rights Act, it *will* strengthen enforcement procedures.

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✓ PLEASE DO NOT FAIL to submit all Women Doer nominations by December 1, as announced in both the September and October CAPITAL CAPSULE. Send directly to the Office of Women's Activities.

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✓ On November 5 Chairman John M. Bailey reminded Democrats that the next Presidential election was but one year off (Nov. 5, '68) and then announced a nationwide series of "Victory 68" regional conferences designed to unify the Democratic Party and get campaign activities underway immediately. First of the regional conferences will be December 1-2 in Charleston, West Virginia, to which more than 300 Democratic leaders from six states have been invited. Other parleys are being scheduled around the nation on week-ends throughout the months of January, February and March. "The '68 campaign is on," Bailey declared. "We have 365 days and intend to use every one of them to the fullest."

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DON'T NEGLECT TO HAVE YOUR CALENDAR CHECKED
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE . . . MAY 19-21, 1968
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MURIEL HUMPHREY SPEAKS

"... Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any way comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them



"I became interested in mental retardation the way most people do—inadvertently. I did not know fully what it meant until it happened to one of our own family.

Six and a half years ago our first granddaughter was born in Minneapolis. She arrived on a most eventful evening—election night 1960. It was a victorious evening, happy and exciting. To commemorate it my daughter and her husband gave their first child the name, Victoria.

Then the next day, we received the news that our Vicky was retarded. She was mongoloid, a condition known in the medical field as Down's Syndrome. The report of Vicky's retardation took us completely by surprise. Like many another family into which a mentally retarded person has been born, we were not sure what the handicap would mean. We did not know what we should do. We did not know where to turn. Our first thought was, 'Will she live?' When we had been assured that her life was not in danger, we wanted to know more about her handicap."

"As the Vice President so often states, I am optimistic that 'Together we will succeed in bringing retardation out of the shadows of ignorance and indifference where it has been for so many generations and into the sunlight of research and understanding. The real dividend of our constructive action is smiles and joy on a child's face. It is peace of mind and pride that we have not turned our backs on the afflicted.'

"Let me quickly and simply define mental retardation for you. It is impaired or incomplete mental development. It is permanent. It is not a temporary condition. It is not to be confused with mental illness which is an emotional condition usually of a temporary nature.

The tragic permanence of retardation and the fact that the retarded increasingly live a normal life span are the factors that require a family, a community and a nation to think in terms of complete programs for them—programs that will meet the needs of the young, the adolescent and the adult mentally handicapped."



"Especially heartening in our country in recent years is the national consideration given the problem—first by President Kennedy and now by President Lyndon Johnson.

President Johnson has made it clear that the federal government's commitment to combat mental retardation and to aid those with the handicap will be a lasting one.

Said the President, 'Thirty years ago or even three years ago, if anyone had asked what was being done about mental retardation, the answer would have been a shrug of the shoulder. Our answers and our attitude are changing. We are answering with our hearts and our heads, not with shrugs and silence . . .

'But our efforts have only begun,' President Johnson adds. 'We will continue until we find all the answers we have been seeking, until we find a place for all those who suffer with the problem.'"



ON MENTAL RETARDATION

afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate that it may please thee to patience unto their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions."

FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

"The human family knows no nationality, knows no boundary, knows only life's joy and its pains, its achievements and its defeats. This work is one of the most exciting things I know of to be doing with one's life.

Finding proper guidance was *our* most difficult problem, as it still is today for too many parents of the retarded. Our responsibility to these retarded and their families is very great. We work so that they may know and build on hope and advancement, so the full potential of the mentally retarded individual may be made real through wise programs of diagnosis, education, counseling and other assistance.

For the retarded are part of our lives and experience. They are not a group apart, not different in nature from us. They are variously limited human individuals, and the work of helping them be as able and worthwhile as they can be is crucially important."



Speaking to a youth group, Mrs. Humphrey said, "We find you at work in the slums of our big cities. We find you helping in areas of rural poverty. We find you involved in civil rights. As you grow older, we will find you moving beyond the borders of our own country to participate in the struggles of other people for equality and justice.

Some of you are busy running teen canteens, setting up creative recreation programs, working in summer camps, serving as teacher aides, organizing baby sitter institutes.

I am proud of your efforts in behalf of the retarded and immensely pleased to have the opportunity to tell you so this evening. And I applaud all of you for being sufficiently interested in the needs of the handicapped generally to attend this conference."

"Let me say just a word here about volunteers generally. In the past many persons, young and old, have contributed their time unselfishly to the retarded. What would we have done without their help. I know that the school our little granddaughter attends could not have operated without this source of manpower."

What is exciting and significant is that these people are making service to the retarded part of the years in which they define their life goals. They are making life commitments and decisions on the basis of genuine experience and understanding.

There has been a consequent great expansion in community centers for the retarded, workshop programs, recreation activities for the retarded and special education programs in the schools. The object of all these has been to give the retarded child the special help he needs within the warmth and security and familiarity of the surroundings and people he knows and loves."

