
***Addresses Before American Federation
of Physically Handicapped***

Including an Address by

Vice President Wallace

**Extension of Remarks of
Hon. Augustine B. Kelley
of Pennsylvania**

in the

House of Representatives

October 18, 19, 20, 1943

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Addresses Before American Federation of the Physically Handicapped

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. AUGUSTINE B. KELLEY

Monday, October 18, 1943

Mr. KELLEY. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I wish to include some addresses made before a meeting of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped at the National Press Club on the evening of July 9, 1943. These addresses were made by Dr. Andrew S. Beshore, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Paul A. Strachan, president of the American Federation of the physically Handicapped; Mr. Lewis Hines, of the American Federation of Labor; Mr. Monroe Sweetland, of the C. I. O. War Relief Commission; Mr. N. P. Alifas, president of District 44 of the International Association of Machinists and legislative representative of the Metal Trades Council; Mr. Paul Sifton, of the National Farmers' Union; and Mr. Lawrence Q. Lewis, executive director of the National Society for the Blind.

Mr. STRACHAN. The chairman of the meeting is Dr. Andrew S. Beshore, of Pennsylvania, who will now take over. Dr. Beshore.

Dr. BESHORE. This is the second time that I have had the distinction of appearing before this group. I am glad to see a large number of us here, and know there would be several hundred more, if there was not the omnipresent necessity of a war to win. Some of us are in there "pitching" on night work on the production line. They would like to be here, but they cannot fall the call to duty

I am not going to take much of your time, because you have some real speakers here tonight, and I am sure that you are all anxious to hear their messages, and I am sure that those here tonight will have a message that will assure promotion of the interests of this great organization, and I trust that each individual in this group will do his utmost to advance this organization. Since last being with you, I have sacrificed much, on several occasions, to promote this federation, and we have several lodges in Pennsylvania with more to come.

I am happy to note that we have on the platform tonight Lewis Hines, former secretary of labor of Pennsylvania. I want to say that I never had a finer friend than Mr. Hines. He did everything he could to advance vocational rehabilitation in Pennsylvania, and particularly to see that I remained in charge of that program, but it was not possible, and I finally resigned. I regret that step—not because I have not been able to earn a good livelihood since that time, but because I feel that I could have helped the physically handicapped materially.

During those years back there I discovered one thing, however, and that is that one can get nowhere without organization. In order to accomplish things there must be organization. The American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations—all of them started with a nucleus. I want you to think of those things, and to bear that in mind. We are just beginning, but we can, and will become one of the most powerful organizations in the country. There are some 23,000,000 handicapped in the United States, potential members to become affiliated with us. I hope all of you will do your utmost to advance our cause, and build up our organization.

We have a fine example set for us. Take, for instance, our present President—he is 75 percent physically handicapped, and many,

many times I am amazed to see what he can do, and how he can carry on. It amazes me, too, to hear persons say that they cannot afford the three or four dollars that it may take to affiliate with an organization. Paul, among other disabilities, is totally deaf; he has been, at various times, representative of labor and other organizations; he is the most dynamic individual that I have ever known. But without the cooperation of others, he must, eventually be bogged down. Sometimes I am even ashamed that I cannot do more. I have the distinction and honor of presenting to you, the national president of the A. F. P. H., Mr. Paul A. Strachan.

Mr. STRACHAN. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice President, distinguished guests, friends, and fellow members, we are here tonight to give recognition to an idea—that is, that the physically handicapped have a right to be a part of the social and economic life of this Nation. I believe what we have done, in the brief space of 1 year, has been exceptional. We have succeeded in having focused upon the handicapped, the necessity of their utilization in the war effort; we have succeeded also in establishing the value of the handicapped in everyday problems.

I am certain that the program of this Federation will be the greatest forward movement for handicapped people that has ever been started. I am not going to dwell upon the details of that program—most of us know it—but I will say that there is going to be a determined effort to impress upon Congress and upon the public what we are trying to do. However, we cannot expect people to do for us unless we are willing to do for ourselves. In other words, we must intensify our efforts and continue the fight for greater recognition and wider opportunities.

The following telegrams were received:

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The welfare of the physically handicapped is indissolubly linked with the welfare of the Nation. Success to our mass meeting.

JESSE D. GROSS,
First Vice President,
A. F. P. H., Canton, Ohio.

For 25 years I have been intimately connected with the problems of the handicapped, and I am sure that the program projected by the A. F. P. H. is the greatest advance in the solution of those problems. Best wishes to all speakers, members, and attendants at meeting.

CHESTER C. HADDAN,
Second Vice President,
A. F. P. H., Denver, Colo.

Although I am now in the hospital, I assure you no mere operation will remove my enthusiasm for A. F. P. H. We have already made wonderful progress in bringing new hope to the handicapped. Good luck to you.

MISS AUGUSTA B. WEAVER,
Seventh Vice President,
A. F. P. H., Sapulpa, Okla.

Speaking for the deaf in A. F. P. H., we assure you of our continued interest in all efforts to ameliorate the conditions of the handicapped. Let us all join in the Victory march.

AUGUST P. HERDTFELDER,
Ninth Vice President,
A. F. P. H., Silver Spring, Md.

Nearly 23 years ago the first Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act was placed upon the statute books. I remember it well, because I was on the legislative committee of one of the affiliated labor organizations seeking enactment of that measure. I know, therefore, that organized labor has a great interest in vocational training and rehabilitation generally, and affords me a real

pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Lewis Hines, former secretary of labor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who is here tonight representing the American Federation of Labor, and that organization's president, Mr. William Green.

Mr. HINES. Mr. Chairman, Vice President WALLACE, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen who go to make up this splendid group of my fellow Americans:

I am primarily here tonight to represent President William Green of the A. F. of L., who asked me only this afternoon to indicate to those of you here tonight that we are 100 percent behind your program, and that we are going to support it, and will urge Congress to do so, because after a study of that program, we are convinced that such a program is going to have a tremendous appeal, and that as time goes on, the problem of the handicapped is going to be a tremendous problem.

I do not have to tell members of the Disabled American Veterans, some of whom are here tonight, anything about such a problem. They have had some little experience along such lines. Some time ago we set up a unit within the State of Pennsylvania to handle employment of disabled veterans. We did not get very far, and really nothing has been done since that time in that direction.

This is a problem that properly belongs within the United States Employment Service. I feel that there should be something done along that line to develop full measures of the obligation to provide assistance for the disabled within that group. There will be more and more disabled from now on due to the war, and due to the fact that the accident rate is increasing more and more each day. I know what it means to the disabled man to be able to follow a gainful occupation, and to support himself and his family. And, while some steps have been taken in the direction of assisting these men

through vocational training, we have only scratched the surface.

I do not want to take up the time of this gathering here tonight, but I do want to say that we will aid you in the program you have outlined, because such aid as this is in line with the program of the A. F. of L., and support of the Kelley resolution is strictly a humanitarian and economic necessity.

Also I want to say, if at any time our organization can be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to call upon us. I thank you.

Mr. STRACHAN. Thank you, Mr. Hines.

I have been reliably informed that there are more than 300,000 members of the C. I. O. who are now handicapped in one way or another. That organization, therefore, has a very keen interest in what we are trying to do, and I am very glad to present to you its representative here tonight, Mr. Monroe Sweetland, director, C. I. O. war-relief commission. Mr. Sweetland.

Mr. SWEETLAND. Mr. Chairman, Vice President WALLACE, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, what I have to say to you in these few minutes can be expressed in a few words. The C. I. O. is interested in this cause of yours, and in enactment of House Resolution 230, and other similar proposals. Why are we interested? Why is the C. I. O. concerned about this?

We are concerned, first, because, as your President has just told you, we have about 300,000 members of our organization at the present time who are handicapped. Thousands of others may become so. Thousands so handicapped but who, given proper training and an opportunity to work, would be self-supporting. Many such persons are members of the C. I. O., and many others are members of the families of C. I. O. members.

We are interested in maximum production during this war. Such maximum production lags through the necessity of such retraining programs for the handicapped who might be

able to step in and take a place in the production line.

We are interested, also, because we have only begun to face this problem. Very few Americans realize that more persons have been injured or diseased—handicapped in one way or another—in industry and labor than there are veterans. Now, I submit to you that these men and women who lose their lives, or are injured, are as much entitled to assistance as are the men in the armed forces. And, as the war continues, steps must be taken so that we will be able to face these problems—which are identical. We are interested in a program for all Americans—one that will enable them to support themselves and their families within this great United States of which we are all a part.

Just few years ago the C. I. O. met under the same circumstances as you are meeting here tonight—a confederation of organizations and individuals getting together for mutual benefit. Only those who have faced similar problems realize how essential it is to be organized; how essential it is to have friends like Congressman KELLEY, and President Roosevelt, and other friends who care. But they are helpless and crippled to do anything in your behalf without your organized help—not just the help of one handicapped group, but all of you.

Do not let those with heart trouble be against those who are deaf or hard of hearing—or those who are tubercular be against those who are crippled, and so forth. Most of your problems are common problems, and your chances of winning will be far greater if you are working together than in diversified directions.

When you face the post-war readjustment period you are going to face problems which even the able-bodied will find difficult, and the most powerful ally you will have—if you are to succeed—will be the great American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Indus-

trial Organizations, and the railroad brotherhoods in getting a program of full employment for all Americans so that they may earn their own livings.

You are starting late—I—we—only hope that you will be overwhelmingly successful. I am here to tell you you have friends—powerful friends. If you will organize, together with these powerful friends, you can win this fight for the handicapped. I thank you.

Mr. STRACHAN. Thank you, Mr. Sweetland. I am sure we will give you no peace until the program for the handicapped has been put over.

I always take pleasure in presenting good friends and old friends, and in the case of the next gentleman I have fought with him for some 28 years. I know that he has always been on the side of the underdog and that he is regarded on the Hill, and elsewhere, as an extremely capable legislative representative. I take pleasure in presenting Mr. N. P. Alifas, president, District No. 44, International Association of Machinists, and legislative representative of the Metal Trades Council. Mr. Alifas.

Mr. ALIFAS. Mr. Chairman, Vice President WALLACE, President Strachan, honored guests, and friends, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to come here tonight, in furthering the great cause for which you will organize. And when I say that I really mean it. Had I not been pleased to come here tonight, I would not be here.

Your President is a man of great force of character, and I predict that every Member of the House and Senate, if not in this mass meeting, know well his energy and ability, and that the A. F. of L., the C. I. O., the Machinists, and others will do their full part in getting this program across.

I happen to have been in this work a good many years. Even at the time of the passage of the first legislation for vocational rehabilitation, I was representing a similar organization. The first board was composed of six

members—the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, and one representative each from agriculture, labor, and business interests. From that time on, many acts have been put on the statutes. The Federal Board for Vocational Rehabilitation is even now acting in an advisory capacity to the United States Office of Education, still operating, particularly on behalf of the physically handicapped.

Why are the machinists so interested in this act? Aside from the fact of always being altruistic, we are always in favor of uplifting the under dog. The National Safety Council recently announced that 4,700,000 workers had been injured to the extent of becoming permanently physically handicapped. This gives a person an inferiority complex, and is not only not good for the individual, but also tends to hinder our total production. Rehabilitation, so that a man may support himself and his family, gives that man a sense of pride at taking a part in the world's work, and I believe that rehabilitation of the handicapped individual is absolutely necessary and should be an obligation of our Government. We believe that House Resolution 230 should be enacted into law, and wish you success in this worthy effort.

I know that you are waiting to listen to a very distinguished speaker, and I shall close my remarks by saying that we are behind you in your present program, and will do what is in our power to help your very able president, Paul Strachan.

Mr. STRACHAN. Thank you, Mr. Alifas. I hope that the machinists will take their wrenches and tighten up all the screws in an effort to put over the passage of House Resolution 230.

Labor is not the only group represented here tonight, for it is not the only group that is interested in the rehabilitation and placement of the handicapped—which affects every segment of our population. In agriculture, for example, the National Safety

Council reports that the past year 1,500,000 farmers and farm workers were injured, of whom 18,000 were killed, and 75,000 became permanently disabled.

It gives me pleasure at this time to present to you Mr. Paul Sifton, national legislative representative of the National Farmers Union, who, incidentally, has had considerable personal experience with vocational rehabilitation work as a former official in New York State. Mr. Sifton.

Mr. SIFTON. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice President, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, I shall make my remarks here tonight very brief. The head of our organization, the National Farmers Union, Mr. James E. Patton, has authorized and directed me to say that we are pushing for your program, and for this bill, now before Congress.

We understand the needs as to the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped in this country, and we understand that the purpose is to provide proper training for the handicapped so that they may be equipped to do their full share of the work to be done, and to receive equitable payment therefor.

We can support such a movement quite naturally because of the purposes of our own organization, and in this period of total war the need is even greater, for we are forced to do much which we do not have to do in time of peace.

The National Farmers Union will be fighting for you.

Mr. STRACHAN. Thank you, Mr. Sifton. It is a pleasure to know that the farmers of this Nation will leave no furrow unturned to help us in our future battles.

We have with us tonight a man who is a charter member of the A. F. P. H., and who represents one of the most important groups in the handicapped movement. I now present Mr. Lawrence Q. Lewis, executive director, the National Society for the Blind. Mr. Lewis.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Chairman, Vice President WALLACE, distinguished guests, ladies, and

gentlemen: What I am going to say is very brief, but I hope to the point. Most of us do not know that in these United States there are some 300,000 blind persons, and that it is estimated by the experts that only about 20,000 of them are employed in normal occupations, and that another 75,000 or 80,000 receive some social security aid or pensions of one sort or another at an average rate of \$21.68.

Rehabilitation of the physically handicapped is certainly a step in the right direction. Therefore, the National Society for the Blind has been greatly interested in the so-called Barden-La Follette bill to furnish vocational rehabilitation to the physically handicapped, and also in House Resolution 230 because this resolution calls for a complete study of this whole problem.

It is a pleasure to know that we have friends like Mr. Kelley who will press for legislation to help the handicapped of this Nation to regain their rightful places in the social and economic structure of this great country.

Mr. STRACHAN. Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

Tuesday, October 19, 1943

Mr. KELLEY. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I wish to include an address made by me at the meeting of the American Federation of Physically Handicapped at the National Press Club on the evening of July 9, 1943, and some very kind remarks about the address by Mr. Paul A. Strachan, president of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped:

Mr. STRACHAN. I am happy to have the opportunity of introducing to you tonight a Member of Congress whose sympathies are with the handicapped. When first I discussed the matter with him, I found that he had had a lifelong interest in the subject,

and was eager to cooperate in any way possible. I know that he is a real friend of the handicapped because, when he introduced House Resolution 230, he proved that he would not only say something about the matter, but he would do something about it as well.

I am not going to dwell unduly upon this gentleman. I will, however, acquaint you with the fact that he has five sons—all of them now in the military service to help fight and win this war for you and me and all of us—and I think, thus, that he has a right to speak as a good American.

Without further ado, I have the honor to present to you, the Honorable AUGUSTINE B. KELLEY, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. KELLEY. I am glad to be with you tonight, and to have the opportunity to talk about some of the problems of the physically handicapped.

I have always been interested in the affairs of the underprivileged, particularly the sick and disabled. These make two appeals—one is humanitarian, the other is utilitarian. It would seem that the humanitarian appeal should be sufficient to create an interest strong enough to unite full public support for aid. Sad to say, this is not true. So, we will approach the problem from the viewpoint of utility.

Today in the search for available manpower, the physically incapacitated become a reservoir of immense resource. It took a national crisis to direct our attention to the vast potentiality hidden in our physically handicapped. Perhaps this need for manpower will teach us that in normal times this reservoir of the physically handicapped can be converted from a liability to an asset. As a Nation we cannot afford to neglect this group—either from the standpoint of humanity, or from the standpoint of utility.

As a Congressman, I am interested in developing every resource of the Nation, to hasten the successful termination of the war.

Here is a vast, potential source of manpower—so badly needed today—that can be developed for service in industry and in agriculture.

To achieve this end, the Government should proceed now to put into effect a comprehensive, intelligent plan for the rehabilitation and regeneration of the physically handicapped.

As we understand, there are now more than 20,000,000 of these, of whom it is estimated some 2,000,000 have already registered in the various Federal-State rehabilitation and employment agencies—and perhaps another 5,000,000 not yet registered—who stand in need of either medical treatment, prosthetic, orthopedic, hearing, sight, or other devices, education and training, and, above all, suitable placement in employment which would enable them to become active partners in our economy, rather than charges upon their families, their communities, and the Nation—with no return whatsoever.

There are, in my opinion, too many agencies dealing with the handicapped problem. That is self-evident when it is considered that approximately 17 different agencies have a part of it. There is a lack of coordination of effort, a notable lack of over-all national policy, a lack of trained specialists and personnel to treat or deal with the handicapped. This cannot be achieved if governments—both Federal and State—are shortsighted or penurious and persist in regarding the matter as coming within the purview of public charity. To rehabilitate and regenerate the handicapped is not charity but the most enlightened self-interest.

Any plan projected today must have the full support and understanding of the Congress and the Chief Executive and the public. Therefore, it is doubly necessary that the means chosen shall meet the critical analysis of public opinion as to the need and method to be applied.

Upon mature reflection it seemed to me that the proper approach would be to have a

committee of the House of Representatives authorized to delve deeply into this matter and study every phase. Therefore, I introduced House Resolution 230, which reads as follows:

“Resolved, That the Committee on Labor, acting as a whole or by subcommittee or subcommittees appointed by the chairman of said committee, is authorized and directed (1) to conduct thorough studies and investigation of the extent and character of aid now given by the Federal, State, and local Governments and private agencies to the physically handicapped, (2) to study and investigate the diffusion within the United States of such aid to the physically handicapped, (3) employment opportunities for the physically handicapped, and all other questions in relation thereto which would aid the Congress in any necessary remedial legislation, etc., etc.”

This is, in my opinion, comprehensive, and, although I am somewhat modest, I am compelled to admit that it is intelligent. The plan begins, where it should begin, by making a complete and thorough study of all problems relating to the physically handicapped, their needs, and the remedies to apply. It calls for the separation of the various classes of the handicapped—a study and evaluation of their talents and abilities—the blind, the deaf, the hard of hearing, the amputees, the tuberculous, the cardiacs, the victims of infantile paralysis, and the many others afflicted.

In several instances studies have been made of special groups, but so far as can be determined, the surface has not been more than scratched. We need to coordinate the information so that each group may fall into its proper classification, so that we may know the needs and the remedies to apply.

As stated, House Resolution 230 seeks to “conduct thorough studies and investigation of the extent and character of aid now given by the Federal, State, and local governments and private agencies to the handicapped.”

We must begin now, if we are going to gather the desired information soon enough to enable us to devise and apply constructive and corrective remedies, to make the handicapped available in this war period.

Second, the resolution proposes to "study and investigate the diffusion within the United States of such aid to the physically handicapped." At present one has to search through every nook and cranny to ascertain what benefits may be available to the handicapped, and even then it is very difficult to learn with any fair degree of accuracy the exact situation.

Third, and perhaps most important of all, the resolution proposes to ascertain "employment opportunities for the physically handicapped, and all other questions in relation thereto, which would aid the Congress in any necessary remedial legislation." The importance of this is self-evident. Of what use would any program be, unless it is designed to fit people to become self-supporting? And how may they become self-supporting unless they are placed at some work well within their capacities?

For many years to come we shall need the services of every American citizen who can perform any kind of useful labor. We know that the manpower needs for war purposes alone are constantly rising. A recent statement of the War Manpower Commission reveals that an additional 3,600,000 workers are to be employed in war industries.

As never before in our history, the individual becomes important. Now we must consider the necessity of dealing not only with the welfare of the individual for his own benefit, but, for the greater need and purposes of saving the Nation itself.

Let us further consider that experience has shown, for example, that the average cost today of rehabilitation of a handicapped individual approximates \$300 per person. Pursuing that thought further, we find that the average handicapped, once rehabilitated,

is able to earn from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per year, or more, and thus become wholly or partially self-sustaining.

It is wasteful and uneconomical to let men and women remain helpless merely because the Nation fails to provide an adequate program of treatment, training, appliances, and suitable placement.

I believe we can enable these citizens to earn their own way, to say nothing of removing the burden of their support from their families, and communities. Even though it does require spending a little money to put these people in position to earn their own living, the failure to spend that money is a senseless form of waste. And the money spent must be spent in a manner that does not fall short of the goal of providing the handicapped with a means of making themselves self-sustaining.

Obviously, we cannot bear our share of the load if we are physically unable to work, or, if we are discriminated against, and prevented from working and earning simply because we are physically handicapped. Doubtless other millions are to be added to the 23,000,000 handicapped through injuries or disease incurred in war or war production. There can be no question but that it is not only the duty of the Government to devise and put into motion an ameliorative program, but it is a positive necessity.

I do not mean that we should neglect those who cannot be rehabilitated, because of incapacity through hopeless illness or injury. No indeed. To those helpless, who number, as I understand, approximately 3,000,000, I believe that there should be additional Federal-State aid extended, when and where necessary.

But I am addressing myself primarily to the problem of those handicapped who may now, or later, be available for rehabilitation, whose illnesses or injuries are wholly or partially curable, or remedial. If we can, by boldly seizing this opportunity for

needed public service, add from 2,000,000 to 10,000,000 workers to our population, then we shall not only have achieved a great humanitarian purpose, consonant with divine command, but we shall, also, provide the needed sinews and men and women to help us in the tasks of war and peace.

I therefore firmly believe that immediate passage of House Resolution 230 is necessary. I believe that the Congress should go into this matter, not half-heartedly, nor yet accepting too much hearsay evidence as gospel, but actually to learn the facts for itself. Let each of us strive to the best of his or her ability to preserve this Nation in all its pristine splendor as a land of golden opportunity. I believe that once Congress gets all the facts, in such an investigation as is proposed by this Resolution, a national program for the physically handicapped on a comprehensive scale may be undertaken.

As I have said, I have approached this problem from the viewpoint of utility. I have purposely refrained from dwelling upon the purely humane aspects. I do this, not from lack of knowledge or sympathy, but because the problem now has a powerful appeal to everyone from a practical point of view, whereas it would not reach so many by an appeal to their emotions.

I realize all too well the plight of those who, being handicapped, are and have been in the unhappy position of feeling that they are not wanted, or are of no use; that there is no place for them in the economic scheme or in the social system of our country. All too many examples have come to light in my own experience of handicapped who have been denied the opportunity to put their talents and abilities to work simply because industry, or Government, or corporations, or some individual had laws, restrictions, or adverse opinions concerning the employment of handicapped as a matter of policy. We must change that condition.

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We must see that the handicapped, instead of being plunged into the depths of despair, are given that priceless boon of hope. We must see to it that their faith in God is equalled by their faith in their fellow men. We may bring this about through universal practice of the Golden Rule, "do unto others as ye would that they do unto you." We must see to it that in this, our beloved country, no man or woman lacks opportunity.

We must not despair when we face the unpleasant facts of today and contemplate the troubles of tomorrow. I have faith in the iron determination of the American people and their ability to surmount all difficulties. I am sure that, once this scourge of war has passed away, we shall again take up the march toward a better civilization. I know that the spirit which animated our pioneer forefathers and mothers is not dead, but has been handed down to our generation. The American people can lick any problem, once they unite upon a solution.

In conclusion, my friends, I wish to say that I shall do all possible to improve the condition of the handicapped, believing, as I do, that they are entitled to a full life of usefulness and happiness, and that they are important factors in our national economy.

I ask that you give support to the program announced here tonight, as I am sure that it is one which is needed, and is practical. It is one which, given full opportunity for development, will not only play an important part in winning this war, but in preserving the peace thereafter and creating a happier world for us all.

Mr. STRACHAN. Thank you, Congressman KELLEY, and may I say to you on behalf of this federation, that we are very sure that you will continue to do your utmost until House Resolution 230 is enacted.

Wednesday, October 20, 1943

Mr. KELLEY. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include an address by the Vice President of the United States made at a meeting of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped at the National Press Club, Washington, D. C., July 9, 1943; a resolution introduced at and adopted by the meeting is also included, and an address by Mr. Millard W. Rice, national service director of the Disabled American Veterans, and vice president of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped.

Mr. Rice is introduced by Mr. Paul A. Strachan, president of the A. F. P. H.

Mr. STRACHAN. Brother Archie E. Cole, of Washington Lodge No. 2, is recognized to present a resolution. The following resolution was presented and unanimously adopted by a rising vote of all present:

"Whereas the immediate needs of our Nation for increasing manpower necessitate full utilization of the skills and aptitudes of our physically handicapped citizens, who now number approximately 23,000,000, and a very large number of whom could, with treatment, training, and suitable placement, be fitted into the war production program, and

"Whereas the increasing number of handicapped, approximating 1,500,000 yearly, due to injuries and disease incurred in military, naval and industrial, and agricultural services, demand attention by Congress, and the public, and require early attention looking to establishment of an adequate program to meet this problem: Now therefore be it

"Resolved, That this mass meeting held under the auspices of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, Inc., and in which the District of Columbia Department, Disabled American Veterans, partici-

pated—the A. F. P. H. including in its membership the blind, the deaf, the hard-of-hearing; cardiacs, tuberculars, victims of infantile paralysis; amputees, and other groups of injured, or diseased, calls upon all Members of the House of Representatives of the United States to take favorable, immediate action upon House Resolution 230, introduced by Representative AUGUSTINE B. KELLEY, of Pennsylvania; which provides establishment of a House committee to investigate, survey, and develop an adequate program for all the physically handicapped, and, be it further,

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to all Members of Congress, the daily press, and all interested organizations and individuals."

Mr. STRACHAN. Some of you have had the pleasure of having heard Vice President Millard Rice when he appeared before us on a previous occasion, but I am happy to again present him because to me he represents one of the real leaders in this organization. He is one of the very few with whom I "fight," continually, but work with just as continuously. His very great ability and comprehensive knowledge of the problems of the handicapped is second to none, and I would go so far as to say that much of the legislation written during the past 7 years dealing with the problems of the handicapped, particularly as to disabled veterans, has emanated from him. I am, therefore, proud that he is one of us, and I have delegated to him tonight the high honor of introducing the Vice President of the United States.

I now present Mr. Millard W. Rice, national service director, Disabled American Veterans, and vice president of the A. F. P. H., Mr. Rice.

Mr. RICE. Fellow Americans, it is a pleasure for me to be with you again tonight. I have been interested in the A. F. P. H. since prior to its inception. In fact, I think that I had something to do with its beginnings—for Paul Strachan and I have long been interested in the social and economic problems

of the less fortunate of this country, and Paul has sacrificed much, and has been a real aid to the A. F. P. H.

I happen to be the national service director for the Disabled American Veterans, which is an organization of war-disabled veterans. That organization, congressionally chartered, came into being some 23 years ago. It was the realization on the part of such war-disabled veterans from World War No. 1 that they must be organized if they were to get what they believed a generous public intended them to have that brought about the D. A. V., as the organization is commonly referred to.

The same situation is true as to other physically handicapped. They, too, have been neglected. As one of our previous speakers has said, during this time of war, when total production is so important, many physically handicapped have been found to be employable, and are now employed in jobs previously handled by able-bodied persons. More of the handicapped will be found to be so employable with vocational rehabilitation and training, and if the proper program is developed and the American people convinced, it is not unlikely that they may continue to be employed in time of peace.

Right after the First World War we of the D. A. V. found that American employers—even our Federal Government—were reluctant to employ disabled or handicapped persons. And even in those days we felt that the battle for the proper employment of such disabled veterans would have to go on. That is true not only as to disabled veterans but as to disabled Americans generally and because of the fact that the future will bring more and more handicapped, we are inexorably bound to help each other to the end that our fellow Americans who are physically handicapped—in the interest of America itself—shall be restored to employability not only temporarily during time of war but for all time.

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I think that sometimes we forget that all the great wealth of this Nation was created by labor, and employers must be convinced that the handicapped are not liabilities, but, assets, and that they can bring something worth while to the Nation. Because of that realization, the D. A. V. has been extremely interested in the problems of the returning disabled veterans of this war, as well as those of past wars, and in the problem of disabled civilians as well. It is true that we have insisted that those who have incurred disabilities as a result of war service should have laws administered separately, by an agency set apart from the agency responsible for civilians generally. We believe that is desirable, not only because we believe it is warranted as to disabled veterans, but also because it helps to lead the way.

Looking back a little way, I think we can safely say that social security benefits came into being largely as a result of comparison as to what had been done for disabled veterans, and it was finally decided that Americans—generally speaking—should all be extended some assistance when aged or disabled.

You, who are members of this organization, are engaged in the pursuit of an ideal, and that is to make yourselves useful and to be gainfully employed. You need some assistance, some encouragement—possibly some form of vocational rehabilitation and training, to the ultimate end of placement in gainful employment. If we all work together, we shall unquestionably attain these goals.

We are fortunate in having with us tonight, as our esteemed guest, the Vice President of the United States, who is a practical idealist. It is an unusual pleasure and a distinction for me to present to you, the Vice President of the United States—Mr. WALLACE.

Mr. WALLACE. President Paul Strachan, Vice President Rice, ladies and gentlemen, the

American people reserve their supreme admiration for those who have used their physical handicaps to broaden their minds, to intensify their wills, and to vivify their sympathies. That is one reason why we have one of the physically handicapped in the White House today. That is the reason that, 40 years ago, he who most stirred the ambitions of the rising generation was another President by the name of Roosevelt, who had overcome the grave physical handicap of a weakly youth.

But, if the American people reserve their supreme admiration for those who have used their physical handicaps to extend their minds and intensify their wills, then, also the American people reserve their supreme disdain for those who have used their abounding health and great wealth to narrow their minds and to contract their sympathies.

In a somewhat lighter vein, I am reminded of a paper prepared by a great cartoonist of Des Moines, a man of rare gifts, entitled "Why Beautiful Women Have No Brains," to the effect that those who gain admiration by physical appearance do not find it necessary to develop their minds. Perhaps we could look around here, tonight, and find that such a thesis could not always apply, although there may be a kernel of truth in the observation.

I believe that this verse appears something like six times in the Bible, probably not in exactly the same words each time, but at least once in the Old Testament, and five times in the New Testament: "The stone that the builders cast aside has become the headstone of the temple." I have liked also to think of that verse as representing those in the world who have not been treated

squarely—the underprivileged, the lame, the halt, the deaf, and the blind.

I am reminded, also, of the fourth chapter of Micah, in which, summed up, is the story of people somewhat underprivileged for centuries, who are feasted, and also in the fourth chapter there is reference to all nations "flowing to the mountains of the Lord, and to the halt and the maimed." So I would covet for your organization not merely the means to see that something is done in Congress, but also stimulation for others who cannot now imagine how much is possible of accomplishment, with everyone working together.

The ingenuity of man in the United States has made it possible to produce more and more, and in those years of war, when we are turning out more and more, it is not done by those who are able-bodied alone, but they are assisted by those who, although handicapped, are skilled in one way or another.

The American people, for 150 years, have lived with abundance, with the more fortunate borrowing from your strength of will and your power for that which must be done. Developing our resources is a real challenge.

Today, more than 10,000,000 men trained in the United States armed forces will leave that service having skills they never before had. Abundance is theirs. We must continue to develop our resources, to train the handicapped who are employable, and permit them to become self-supporting. If we do this, we can carry our present load as easily as we did in 1929.

This can be done, but it must be done with the same determination, as a nation, and as individuals, as you have worked in overcoming your particular handicaps.