

May 15th
SC Med Assoc
Party -
April 15th
HPR
SCMA
opening

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS
CONFERENCE ON CHILD PROTECTION
MARCH 11, 1976
10:00 A.M.

Sarah Shugler
SC Med Assoc.
File
Mistake
Farmer - Dr.
Roach -

THANK YOU, DR. WESTON.

LET ME WELCOME YOU TO THE FIRST GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON CHILD PROTECTION AND THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE EFFORT TO COME.

I WANT TO SAY A ^{very} SPECIAL WORD OF APPRECIATION TO THE ^{ladies} ~~WOMEN~~ OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA MEDICAL AUXILIARY WHO TOOK AN INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM SEVERAL YEARS AGO. YOUR EFFORTS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM HAVE RAISED THE LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND SENSITIVITY IN THIS STATE. YOU HAVE ALSO BECOME COORDINATORS FOR THE EFFORTS OF MANY OTHER PRIVATE GROUPS AND AGENCIES.

Med. Auxiliary

I AM A STRONG BELIEVER IN THE FAMILY UNIT. THERE IS NO GROUP THAT IS MORE NECESSARY TO THE SURVIVAL OF THIS COUNTRY AND MANKIND THAN THE FAMILY. ONCE A FAMILY UNIT IS BROKEN UP FOR WHATEVER THE REASON SOCIETY CAN OFFER ONLY POOR SUBSTITUTES. ~~IT IS AN ESSENTIAL DUTY OF GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE FAMILY UNIT.~~ ^{We must do what we can} WE CANNOT LET REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES OF "THE SYSTEM" ~~HAVE~~ HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT. WHEREEVER WE STEP IN TO SERVE, WHETHER AS PUBLIC SERVANTS OR CONCERNED VOLUNTEERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WE MUST BE SURE THAT WE DON'T JEOPARDIZE THE BASIC FAMILY CONCEPT.

Family Unit

OF ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT FAMILIES FACE, CHILD ABUSE IS THE MOST HEART-BREAKING. THERE IS NO SIMPLE SOLUTION. THE WHOLE PROBLEM AREA IS VERY SENSITIVE. WE MUST APPROACH IT WITH COMMON SENSE AS WELL AS CONCERN.

Child abuse
Heart breaker

SINCE BIBLICAL TIMES, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REARING CHILDREN HAS RESTED WITH PARENTS. THE BOOK OF PROVERBS ARE FULL OF ADVICE TO PARENTS THAT HAS STOOD FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THE BIBLE ALSO PLACES SOME RESTRAINTS ON PARENTS, REMINDING US THAT OUR OBLIGATION IS TO BRING OUR CHILDREN TO ADULTHOOD FULLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO LIVE RICHLY REWARDING LIVES. I CAN TELL YOU HONESTLY THAT I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THESE VERY SPECIFIC BIBLICAL DIRECTIVES TO BE MY GREATEST HELP IN REARING MY CHILDREN.

I DO NOT PRESUME TO PREACH TO YOU TODAY OR TO INTERPRET COMPLEX BIBLICAL PASSAGES, BUT I DO FEEL THAT WE ALL UNDERSTAND THESE CLEAR DIRECTIVES, AND WE KNOW THERE ARE LIMITS TO THEM. THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE ADMONITION AGAINST "SPARING THE ROD" CONDONES ABUSE OF CHILDREN UNABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

NO SOCIETY HAS EVER BEEN TOTALLY FREE OF PRESSURES AND FRUSTRATIONS. EVERY SOCIETY HAS HAD TO DEAL WITH PERSONS WHO CANNOT COPE WITH LIFE BY DEVELOPING A SYSTEM OF JUSTICE AND LAWS TO PROTECT THOSE WHO MIGHT BECOME THE VICTIMS OF ANOTHER PERSON'S TRANSGRESSIONS.

EVERY LAW HAS TWO PARTS--ONE PART PERMITS CERTAIN ACTIVITIES AND THE OTHER PART SETS LIMITS ON THEM. THIS IS TRUE OF STATUTORY LAW AS IT IS OF SUCH NATURAL LAWS/AS THOSE WHICH GOVERN HUMAN BEHAVIOR. ANYTIME WE ATTEMPT TO EASE THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN NATURE/WE TREAD ON VERY THIN ICE. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT GRAY AREAS BETWEEN SOCIETY'S LAWS AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS WILL ALWAYS GENERATE CONFLICT.

I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERY LAW HAS TWO PARTS; ACTUALLY, THERE'S A THIRD PART--THE INTERPRETATION. I HAVE SEEN PURE MOTIVES AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS NEGATED BY REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES.

Society - Some people can't cope & frustration of life

*Law
1 Permits
2 Permits
3 Interpretation
Reg - Guidelines*

THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTION IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO ME, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. EVEN THOUGH MEN FOUGHT AND DIED TO GET THAT GUARANTEE, SOME FEDERAL AGENCIES, ACTING IN THE NAME OF SAFETY, ARE COMING DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION/BY ATTEMPTING TO REGULATE CHURCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES. WE DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS UNDER THE LAW/HALF AS MUCH AS WE HAVE TO PROTECT THEM FROM BUREAUCRATIC INTERPRETATIONS.

IN THE AREA OF FAMILY LIFE, WE FIND FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE DETERIORATION. THE ONLY WAY TO QUALIFY FOR CERTAIN CHILD CARE FUNDS IS TO KEEP EVERYBODY'S CHILDREN BUT YOUR OWN. THE MEDICAL PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY WILL PAY NURSING HOME FEES/BUT WON'T PAY A SON TO KEEP HIS SICK MOTHER IN HIS HOME--EVEN IF HE IS A DOCTOR!

RECENTLY, THERE WAS A MOVE TO CUT WELFARE COSTS BY TRACKING DOWN FATHERS AND MAKING THEM SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN, NOW I HEAR THAT THE PRIVACY ACT MAY FORBID USE OF THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.

IN THE PAST WE HAVE SEEN MANY PIECES OF WELL-INTENTIONED LEGISLATION INTRODUCED AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS. SOME OF IT WENT TOO FAR. I URGE YOU NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH LEGISLATION UNTIL YOU KNOW THE FULL EFFECTS OF IT.

TODAY WE ARE CONCERNING OURSELVES WITH THE PROBLEM OF PROTECTING CHILDREN PRIMARILY FROM ABUSES OF THOSE WHO ARE LEGALLY AND MORALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

I URGE YOU TO KEEP IN MIND THE DELICACY OF THE SITUATION YOU ARE DEALING WITH. I CHARGE YOU TO EXPLORE ALL FACETS OF THE PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE--FIRST, TO INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND, SECOND, TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION. REMEMBER THAT PUBLIC AWARENESS AND MORAL PERSUASION CAN BE *a most* POWERFUL TOOLS.

THE SPEAKERS YOU WILL HEAR TODAY REPRESENT ^{most} ~~IN~~ THAT IS CURRENTLY KNOWN
IN THIS FIELD. MOST OF YOU REPRESENT GROUPS THAT HAVE FIRST-LINE CONTACT
WITH ABUSED CHILDREN. I WELCOME YOU, AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE EVERY
ADVANTAGE OF THIS POSITIVE ENCOUNTER. I REGRET THAT MY SCHEDULE DOES
NOT ALLOW ME TO PARTICIPATE, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REPORT.