

Notes for Gov. Edwards

Mayors Committee on Employment of the Handicapped

Columbia, May 5, 1976

--Handicapped make important contributions to our society as good citizens and productive workers in business and industry. Because of advances in past few decades, most handicapped are not a burden on the taxpayer..but are gainfully employed.

---Handicapped have suffered one of the highest rates of unemployment in the past because of lack of understanding by potential employers. As a rule, the handicapped make outstanding employees ~~and~~ Employees who try harder.

---S.C. as most other states has emphasized jobs for the handicapped. The S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Dept. has been a leader in developing improved job opportunities for the handicapped. They along with ~~xxxx~~ local organizations, like the Mayors' Committee have shown positive success in increased jobs for the handicapped.

---Their efforts have helped bring about a better awareness of the problems of the handicapped. Specifically things like the legislation passed several years ago to remove architectural obstructions to the handicapped. in new buildings.

---Most importantly, the success of handicapped in business and industry has served as a message of hope and encouragement to other handicapped. They have conveyed the idea that the only real handicap to a productive and happy life

is a handicap of the spirit...not of the body.