

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 ~~---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' <sup>MC</sup> Committee have shown positive success in increased jobs for the handicapped.

---Their efforts have helped bring <sup>ing</sup> 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 haddicapped. 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.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1954-1955

Handicapped make important contributions to our society as good citizens and productive workers in business and industry. In the past few decades, more handicapped are being employed. The burden on the employer, however, has not been light.

Handicapped have suffered one of the highest rates of unemployment in the past because of lack of understanding of potential abilities. The handicapped have outstanding employment opportunities. The barrier is the employer.

As most other areas have expanded, jobs for the handicapped. The U.S. Vocational Rehabilitation Dept. has been a leader in developing

improved job opportunities for the handicapped. The national with many local organizations, like the State Councils 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, through the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Federal Government has passed legislation to help handicapped individuals in various ways.

Importantly, the trend of increasing in our society has served as a source of hope and encouragement to other handicapped. They have learned the hard way that

only real handicap is a restrictive and unproductive attitude.