

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS  
SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

MARCH 31, 1976

IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONFERENCE TODAY AND HAVE THE HONOR OF WELCOMING YOU TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS MEETING ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO ME AND TO OUR ADMINISTRATION. (MAY WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE JOSEPHINE CANNON, BENTLEY LIPSCOMBE, BILL KNOWLES, VIRGINIA MOORE -- RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING SO HARD ON THIS MEETING.)

EARLIER THIS MONTH, WE HELD THE FIRST GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON CHILD PROTECTION IN OUR STATE. IT WAS A MOST PRODUCTIVE VENTURE FOR ALL OF US INVOLVED AND I BELIEVE IT HELPED US ALL TO MORE FULLY UNDERSTAND OUR ROLE IN CHILD WELFARE.

OUR STATE'S MEDICAL AUXILIARY TOOK AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMS IN SOUTH CAROLINA SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN RAISING THE AWARENESS OF PROBLEM AREAS.

IT IS MOST ENCOURAGING TO ME THAT THIS CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD IN SOUTH CAROLINA TO FURTHER EMPHASIZE THE APPROACHES TO IMPROVING CHILD WELFARE.

THERE ARE NO SIMPLISTIC SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF CHILD WELFARE... BUT IN MY OPINION THERE ARE SOME BASIC AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES THAT HELP US FIND SOLUTIONS. WE MUST REALIZE THAT GOVERNMENT... WHETHER AT THE STATE, COUNTY OR THE FEDERAL LEVEL CANNOT SOLVE THE

PROBLEMS ALONE. IT CANNOT... AND SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO REPLACE HUMAN COMPASSION WITH GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

CERTAINLY THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT WHERE THE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUALS ARE INSUFFICIENT.

WE MUST REMEMBER THAT OUR UTMOST GOAL IS THE WELFARE OF OUR CHILDREN. WE MUST STRIKE THE PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN WHAT GOVERNMENT CAN DO... AND WHAT INDIVIDUALS AND THE FAMILY SHOULD DO. WE MUST PROTECT THE CHILD... WHILE WE PROTECT PERSONAL FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE.

(READ PROCLAMATION)

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALLOWING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM TODAY AND I WISH YOU A MOST PRODUCTIVE CONFERENCE HERE IN CHARLESTON.