



REMARKS BY
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CYSTIC FIBROSIS BENEFIT DINNER
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Let me tell you how pleased I am to have a part in this unusual effort on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

My wife Katy was asked to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Chapter when it was formed recently, and we have developed a great interest in the work which is being done to provide medical care and new hope for the victims of this disease and to keep it from destroying the lives of young Americans.

You, Mr. Worley and the other persons gathered here tonight are doing a tremendous service to the persons touched by this disease ---- not just because this benefit dinner will mean extra dollars for care and research, though that is extremely important, but because

you have effectively brought into the public spotlight a major problem of medical science ---- a major human problem of thousands of North Carolinians ---- of thousands of children ---- who have suffered and shared the suffering which accompanies cystic fibrosis.

It is extremely important, I think, that the public know about cystic fibrosis.

Let me remind you what occurred when the people came to understand the facts about polio and the disastrous effect it was having on the American public ---- again particularly among our children. Money was raised for research and the disease has been eliminated as a major medical hazard in this country. The same is true of measles, typhoid fever, and a number of other diseases once thought to be beyond the reach of medical science.

So it is important that we gather here tonight. It is important that the people know about cystic fibrosis, a disease of youth, and that they be moved to act on behalf of its victims. It is important that those now suffering receive the best treatment available and that research efforts be strengthened to prevent such suffering in the future. And it is important that the many persons in our State who know the effects of this disease so

intimately and so painfully have cause for hope.

There is cause for hope. From 1955, when the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation was initiated, to 1965 the age of survival for cystic fibrosis children was raised from five to fifteen years. Certainly, with continued research, there is reason to hope that this age will continue to rise.

There is hope - there is progress being made - for new methods of diagnosis already have brought about a dramatic change in the outlook for Cystic Fibrosis patients in recent years. It has been found that the disease does respond to treatment, but the key is early diagnosis and aggressive therapy.

Marked reductions in both morbidity and mortality are being achieved in large groups of children being followed by teams of experts in special Cystic Fibrosis Centers. In fact, mortality rates in some centers, according to information distributed by the Duke University Cystic Fibrosis Center, are currently running less than 10% compared to rates higher than 50% outside these centers.

Many of our people do not know how close Cystic Fibrosis is to touching all of us. Most persons would not call it a "common disease." But let us look at the facts for a moment. Let us see if all of us should not in fact be concerned about progress in research, treatment and in developing centers for concentrated therapy and care.

Cystic Fibrosis which is a hereditary disease affects about one in every 2000 children in the United States. It causes more deaths among children than polio, diabetes and rheumatic fever combined. And in the United States, according to information from the U. S. Public Health Service, it is estimated that from 2 to 5 per cent of the population may be carriers.

During the last fiscal year alone, the Crippled Children's Program of the North Carolina State Board of Public Health furnished the following services to Cystic Fibrosis patients:

The Board assisted 173 patients, providing approximately \$40,00 for hospitalization; \$9,000 for surgery; \$6,000 for appliances and \$41,000 for clinic fees—a sum of almost \$100,000 and the Board projects that the number of patients will increase by 5-1/2 per cent during the current fiscal year.

Can there be any doubt, therefore, that this deadly disease is also a "common disease," that it is prevalent in this State and that it requires the immediate efforts of all of us to see that Cystic Fibrosis meets the fate of polio and other diseases who struck without mercy among our children until by a united effort we conquered them.

Can there be any doubt that we gather here tonight for good cause and that this effort, undertaken on behalf of our children—of all children—has the blessings of the almighty.

(add any additional comments and conclude)