

Acceptance of National Service Award
Attorney General Robert Morgan
National Rehabilitation Association Meeting
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Monday, September 25, 1972

While society needs to provide more and better rehabilitative services to an ever increasing number of handicapped citizens, at the same time, we need to consider them as "social resources" rather than "social problems".

It is time that we start considering what the handicapped can do for society as well as what society should do for the handicapped.

I think when I say this, I express the deepest longings of most handicapped people. I believe they are only seeking the opportunity to take care of themselves and contribute to society.

It was in keeping with this philosophy that the North Carolina Rehabilitation Counselling Association undertook last year to bring about an awareness on the part of our legislators and the public of the invaluable service being rendered by vocational rehabilitation and the great contributions being made to our society of the recipients of such services.

I was proud to be a very small part of that day.
It worked.

Surely our Country has many demands and limited resources -- but its greatest asset is its people. For too long we have seen most disabled people as problems to be tolerated only through health maintenance and public assistance payments. Compared to social and health programs, we are spending a pittance on rehabilitation. Our newspapers proclaim our vast social problems -- many of which could be greatly alleviated by vocational rehabilitation. Yet there is rarely a reference to vocational rehabilitation as a major counteracting force. Think of the potential manpower available to our Nation if we could but see beyond the surface of the disability to the possibility of rehabilitation.

If tomorrow's newspapers would carry screaming headlines of a discovery of gold, oil, or some other natural resource in any area of our Nation, there would be a great excitement and there is little doubt but what the needed capital to develop and market such resources would be raised very quickly. I submit to you that if we think of our handicapped citizens as resources for rehabilitation, rather than problems to be tolerated, we can and will find the money, and enact the progressive legislation to make certain you people have the tools to do a good job.

Thank you.

Opening of Caldwell County
Democratic Headquarters
Lenoir, North Carolina
Sept. 30, 1972

I always welcome election time and the rallies and get-togethers like this one tonight which are so much a part of political campaigns in North Carolina. They give us a chance to renew old friendships and experience again the feeling of unity which participation in affairs of the Democratic Party creates. Events such as this one provide an opportunity to set new goals, draw new plans and dedicate ourselves to greater service in the future.

And equally important they provide us with an opportunity to review the progress we have made and the service rendered by the Democratic Party.

This is always a pleasure for me because as I have said time and time again, I believe in the principles of the Democratic Party and I believe in the things we have been doing for the people of this State and Nation. I have never hesitated to travel this State over and to take to the stump in support of that Party and I'm glad to be doing it again in 1972.

In the past I have gone back and reviewed the good work done by North Carolina Democrats and pointed with pride to their accomplishments. I want to do the same for a few moments again this year.

Democratic leadership and the progress of our State are — in a very real way — one and the same. North Carolinians are heirs to a long history of good government, enlightened leadership, and sustained progress and the Democratic Party has made it so.

So why shouldn't we look with pride to the achievements in the field of education of Democratic Governors Vance, Aycock, Morrison, Bickett, Hoey, Scott, Umstead and Sanford.

Why shouldn't we look with pride to our fine system of community colleges and technical institutions — 15 community colleges and 41 technical institutes — the second largest system in the country. And, more importantly, the "open door" policy of the community college system provides the opportunity for the individual to develop his potentialities no matter what the field of interest or limit of proficiency. 97 per cent of our population is within 30 miles — easy driving distance — of a community college or technical school. Over 400,000 students are enrolled in this system which has gained the distinction of being the national model for other states. All of this was done under Democratic administrations.

We have 16 state universities for our young people to attend; good public schools and now even a budding kindergarten system for our children — these are positive accomplishments of Democratic administrations, and ones that

have given North Carolina the national name of being the most progressive of the southern states.

What State in this nation can boast of a better record in highway construction than North Carolina. What State can come close to matching the accomplishments of Governors Bickett, Morrison and Kerr Scott — Democratic Governors — who pushed North Carolina to the forefront in providing highways for its people.

North Carolina has 74,368 miles in its state highway system, more than other state and more than the States of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina combined. This includes 10 per cent of all the State maintained paved roads in America which, incidentally, I am told we maintain this with only 4 per cent of the combined budgets of all the 50 states.

In the last three years we have made amazing progress. We have spent during this period, during Bob Scott's administration, \$563,000,000 on highway construction alone and another \$285,000,000 on highway maintenance. \$54,000,000 was spent on secondary roads - roads so vital to the people in our rural areas. What other State can point to this kind of record in road building and highway maintenance? Not a one.

Luther Hodges, a great Democratic Governor in the late fifties, set North Carolina on the road to industrial development in a way that has made this State the envy of the nation. The rate of factory employment growth in recent years has been two to three times the national level.

. People flock to North Carolina from all over the world to visit our Research Triangle and thousands have come to the Tar Heel State to make their homes and use their skills in this research center. Again, we're the envy of this nation and because of the foresight and vision of Luther Hodges, a Democratic governor.

North Carolina continues to be a great agricultural State, and while tobacco remains king of our agricultural products, we rank first in the production of sweet potatoes, farm forestry, second in the production of peanuts. And North Carolina is the fastest growing livestock state outside of the traditional corn belt in the nation.

This is diversification in its best form and Governor Morrison, a Democratic governor, was the first to help our people see the value of diversification long before persons in other parts of our nation had recognized its importance. His successors have followed this policy and our State Department of Agriculture, year after year and administration after Democratic administration continues to merit the confidence of our farmers.

Commissioner Graham is not just an election-time commissioner either. He doesn't just sit in Raleigh, he is out seeing to the needs of the farmer. And he reports to the people what he is doing.

We are now experiencing a crisis in mental health care in North Carolina. It is evident that it is again time to surge ahead as we did during the administration of Governor Gregg Cherry - a Democratic governor. It is time to continue the Democratic tradition of compassion for the mentally ill and I believe that Skipper Bowles is dedicated to doing just that. I hope that in the years to come, when we mention Gregg Cherry and his work in mental health care, we can also add Skipper Bowles' name to that roll call. I am sure we will.

And I need not tell this group that there is no finer State Treasurer in this country than North Carolina's Edwin Gill - a great Democrat and the author of the statement: "In North Carolina, good government is a habit." Proof of this is the Triple A rating of our bonds - the highest any state can have. As Mr. Gill says, "How do you get a good credit rating? You get it the same way a man gets a good reputation in the community. You must be honest and practice integrity over a long period of years. That is the way it is with a man; that is the way it is with a state." Our debt in North Carolina is moderate and our budget is in balance. We can say with pride that the integrity and devotion to sound business principles

that have given this state such a good record and reputation have been the product of Democratic administrations.

The per capita net long term debt of state and local government in North Carolina is less than half the national average and only two states enjoyed a better position in 1970.

Talk about the accomplishments of our Party is not a study in ancient history, as some would have us believe. Look to the positive accomplishments of the last four years. The present administration has had added to the law books in this state legislation designed to protect our environment, which should insure that our children have clean air to breathe, pure water and surroundings which enhance the quality of life.

We've revamped our water and air laws. We've passed a Coastal Protection and Beach Erosion Act, a far-reaching pesticide act and an act regulating the mining of our natural resources. Our gubernatorial candidate himself led the way in many of these efforts and authored the Environmental Bill of Rights which North Carolinians are so proud of today.

I said a while ago that I am always glad to take to the campaign trail for the Democratic Party. I am

especially glad to do this this year because in the past I've had to turn to the achievements of others to illustrate our progress. This year, after having served one term as your Attorney General, I hope that we have done some things in the Department of Justice which are in this same Democratic tradition.