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SPEECH BY:

ROBERT MORGAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NORTH CAROLINA

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY GRADUATION
CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

MAY 13, 1973

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME TO COME TO
CHAPEL HILL TODAY AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS GRADUATION PROGRAM.
IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO BE ON THIS UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND
ESPECIALLY ON A DAY LIKE THIS ONE WHEN WE FORMALLY RECOGNIZE
THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE STUDIED HERE AND
RECEIVED THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING SO VERY NECESSARY IN OUR
TIME FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PURSUIT OF A PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

I AM CLOSE ENOUGH TO CAMPUS LIFE TO KNOW THE KIND
OF ASSISTANCE WHICH MANY OF YOU GRADUATING TODAY HAVE RECEIVED
FROM YOUR HUSBANDS AND WIVES. YOUR SPOUSES HAVE UNDERGONE
PRESSURES AND HARDSHIPS IN MANY CASES TO HELP YOU REACH
THIS DAY. I KNOW YOU WOULD WANT ME TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR
THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE MADE ON YOUR BEHALF.

BECAUSE OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST GENERATION,
YOU WHO ARE GRADUATING WILL WORK FEWER HOURS, EARN MORE,

HAVE MORE LEISURE, TRAVEL TO MORE DISTANT PLACES, AND HAVE MORE CHANCES TO FOLLOW YOUR LIFE'S AMBITION. BUT YOUR PARENTS WILL TELL YOU, AS I WILL TODAY, THAT ALL THE BATTLES HAVE NOT BEEN FOUGHT AND ALL THE VICTORIES HAVE NOT BEEN WON AND THAT TODAY'S GRADUATES ARE OFFERED A CHALLENGE THAT IS GREATER THAN ANY EVER OFFERED TO MANKIND BEFORE.

YOU WILL CONQUER STILL OTHER DISEASES THAT PLAGUE US NOW. YOU WILL BE A PART OF EFFORTS TO EXTEND MAN'S ACTIVE LIFETIME. YOU WILL DEVELOP NEW TECHNIQUES IN YOUR PROFESSION WHICH ARE BEYOND THE LIMITS OF OUR IMAGINATION. YOU WILL INVENT THINGS SO MIRACULOUS THAT THEY ARE TO US INCONCEIVABLE, AND YOU WILL SOLVE PROBLEMS, TREMENDOUS PROBLEMS, YET UNHEARD OF.

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOUR EDUCATION, IN EFFECT, HAS JUST BEGUN. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE YOU RECOGNIZE THE FALLACY OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY ONE PROMINENT AMERICAN THAT "PART OF THE AMERICAN MYTH IS THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE HANDED THE DEAD SKIN OF A SHEEP AT GRADUATION THINK THAT IT WILL KEEP THEIR MINDS ALIVE FOREVER."

I ASSURE YOU THAT IT WILL NOT, AND THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO STAY ABREAST NOT ONLY OF THE CHANGES IN SOCIETY ABOUT YOU AND THE INNER WORKINGS OF YOUR COMMUNITIES BUT ALSO THE CHANGES IN THE

PROFESSION YOU HAVE CHOSEN. BUT I POINT OUT THAT IN ORDER TO BE A VITAL PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY YOU HAVE TO BE EQUALLY CONSCIOUS OF EACH AND READY TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CONDITIONS AND NEW IDEAS.

I SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE BECAUSE IN THE SHORT TIME I HAVE BEEN ATTORNEY GENERAL I HAVE SEEN VERY RAPID CHANGES OCCUR, ESPECIALLY IN ONE AREA WHICH DIRECTLY CONCERNS YOU. FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO THE DRUG CRISIS WAS JUST BEGINNING IN OUR STATE. WE WERE ALL CONCERNED BUT CERTAINLY WE NEVER REALIZED WHAT DIMENSIONS THIS PROBLEM WOULD TAKE BY THE YEAR 1973.

AT THAT TIME THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM, AT LEAST IN THIS STATE, WAS PRIMARILY CONFINED TO INDIVIDUALS FOUND IN THE MIDDLE OR UPPER SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS. THESE WERE WHITE COLLAR AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE OR THEIR SPOUSES WHO HAD BECOME HOOKED ON LEGALLY PRESCRIBED NARCOTICS OR BARBITUATES.

DUE TO THIS FACT, OUR SBI AGENTS SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME IN THE DRUG AREA WORKING WITH PHARMACIES AROUND THE STATE IN CHECKING AND TRYING TO CONTROL THE ILLEGAL DIVERSION OF LEGALLY MANUFACTURED DRUGS. THIS DIVERSION USUALLY CAME ABOUT THROUGH FORGED PRESCRIPTIONS, ALTERED RECORDS, OR OTHER FORMS OF DECEIT.

OUR INVESTIGATORS SPENT MANY HOURS POURING THROUGH PHARMACY AND PHYSICIAN RECORDS TRYING TO DISCOVER WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY ILLEGAL DIVERSION. THEN, AS NOW IN THE PHARMACY PROFESSION, THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY, UNDER THE ABLE HAND OF HARRY McALLISTER, ASSISTED THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS IN THE STATE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. AND PRACTICING PHARMACISTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE READILY GAVE THEIR ASSISTANCE ALSO.

BUT TODAY, THE DRUG ABUSE SCENE HAS CHANGED. WE NOW HAVE MANY MORE ILLEGALLY MANUFACTURED AND ILLEGALLY IMPORTED DRUGS IN NORTH CAROLINA. WE STILL HAVE ILLEGALLY DIVERTED LEGALLY MANUFACTURED DRUGS BUT THIS USUALLY OCCURS AT THE MANUFACTURING LEVEL OR DURING TRANSPORTATION. THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM FORGED PRESCRIPTIONS AND ALTERED RECORDS STILL APPEAR FROM TIME TO TIME BUT OUR PRIMARY FOCUS NOW IS ON OTHER AREAS OF DRUG ABUSE.

IN AN EFFORT TO COMBAT THE RISING TIDE OF DRUG ABUSE, THE 1971 NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY REWROTE ALL OF OUR DRUG LAWS PATTERNING THEM AFTER THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ACT, WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ABOUT 35 STATES. THE ACT WHICH IS NOW IN EFFECT IN NORTH CAROLINA IS ALSO VERY SIMILAR TO THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN 1970.

ONE OF THE IMPORTANT CHANGES WHICH OCCURRED WHEN NORTH CAROLINA'S DRUG LAWS WERE REWRITTEN IS THAT A NEW STATE AGENCY ENTITLED "THE NORTH CAROLINA DRUG AUTHORITY" WAS ESTABLISHED. THIS AUTHORITY, WHICH IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, IS CONTROLLED BY A THIRTEEN MEMBER BOARD, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING THE DRUG AUTHORITY IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION IN NORTH CAROLINA. THE AUTHORITY IS A NEW CONCEPT BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE IN IT AN AGENCY WITH THE DUTY OF COORDINATING ALL PROGRAMS DEALING WITH THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM.

THE ENTIRE NORTH CAROLINA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT IS, OF COURSE, OF INTEREST TO YOU AS PHARMACISTS. IT SETS FORTH THE DRUGS OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, AS THEY ARE REFERRED TO IN THE ACT, WHICH ARE ILLEGAL TO POSSESS EXCEPT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS UNDER A VALID PRESCRIPTION.

THESE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ARE LISTED IN SIX SCHEDULES IN THE ACT WITH SCHEDULE I CONTAINING THINGS SUCH AS HEROIN AND LSD AND SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE NOT USED IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN AMERICA TODAY, AND GOING ON DOWN TO SCHEDULE VI WHICH CONTAINS HARIHUANA.

IN BETWEEN, IN SCHEDULES II, III, IV, AND V, ARE FOUND THE COMMON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS - THE NARCOTICS, AMPHETAMINES,

AND BARBITURATES. THE ACT ALSO COVERS PENALTIES FOR CRIMES SUCH AS FORGING PRESCRIPTIONS AND ILLEGALLY POSSESSING HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES.

OF MORE PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE PHARMACY PROFESSION, HOWEVER, IS THE SECTION IN THE ACT WHICH REQUIRES EVERY PERSON WHO MANUFACTURES, DISTRIBUTES, DISPENSES, OR CONDUCTS RESEARCH WITH ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TO BE REGISTERED. EXCLUDED FROM THE LIST OF THOSE REQUIRED TO REGISTER ARE PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACIES, ALONG WITH PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, OPTOMETRISTS, PODIATRISTS, AND VETERINARIANS.

WHILE REGISTRATION OF PHARMACISTS IS NOT REQUIRED IN NORTH CAROLINA, IT IS REQUIRED BY THE BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, WHICH IS A DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. UNDER THE BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS RULES AND REGULATIONS, A PHARMACIST MUST BE REGISTERED AND GIVEN A CONTROL NUMBER BEFORE HE IS ALLOWED TO ORDER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FROM WHOLESALERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE ACT REQUIRES THAT THE DRUG AUTHORITY LICENSE ALL NON-PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT FACILITIES. THESE ARE COMMONLY CALLED "RAP HOUSES, HALF-WAY HOUSES, GENESIS HOUSES", ETC. THIS PROVISION INSURES THAT THESE LOCALLY-BASED, COMMUNITY ORIENTED DRUG TREATMENT OR REHABILITATION CENTERS WILL ALL MEET CERTAIN MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE DRUG AUTHORITY.

THE NORTH CAROLINA ACT, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, IS PATTERNED AFTER THE FEDERAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT. IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP ALL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA ACT AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE, IT PROVIDES THAT ALL GENERAL RECORD KEEPING AND PRESCRIPTION RECORD MAINTENANCE BE CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY BNDD.

DUE TO THE FACT THAT YOU AS PHARMACISTS WILL BE HANDLING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, THE POSSESSION OF WHICH CAN BE LEGAL OR ILLEGAL, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS ARE PLACED ON YOU. EVEN WITH EVERY EFFORT MADE TO INSURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL FUNCTIONS WOULD NOT OVERLAP, IT IS STILL REQUIRED THAT YOU SPEND MORE TIME THAN I AM SURE YOU WOULD LIKE TO IN PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE AND RECORD KEEPING ACTIVITIES.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF BEING A PHARMACIST TODAY. BUT THIS IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUR PROFESSION. THE NEED FOR THIS HAS COME ABOUT DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE ABUSE OF DRUGS HAS BECOME SO WIDE-SPREAD AS TO REQUIRE AN EXTRA EFFORT ON THE PART OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHOSE LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON THE LEGAL DISSEMINATION AND USE OF DRUGS.

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE A LEGAL DUTY TO ENFORCE THESE LAWS NEED YOUR COOPERATION. WE CAN'T DO OUR JOB WITHOUT IT.

IN ADDITION TO THE BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE NORTH CAROLINA DRUG AUTHORITY, AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, EVEN THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, WILL ALL BE MAKING REQUIREMENTS UPON YOUR TIME AND ENERGIES. I URGE YOU TO WORK WITH THEM IN THE BEST COOPERATIVE SPIRIT.

I AM SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY FOR THE LEGISLATION REQUIRING THIS INVOLVEMENT. AND I AM EQUALLY SURE THAT SINCE YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE PHARMACY PROFESSION AS YOUR LIFE'S WORK THAT YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN YOUR FELLOW MAN AND YOU WILL WANT TO DO ALL THAT YOU CAN TO INSURE THAT DRUGS ARE USED AS THEY WERE DESIGNED TO BE USED, TO TREAT AND CURE THE ILLS OF OUR CITIZENS, AND NOT TO BE ABUSED FOR REASONS OF CURIOSITY, PLEASURE, OR ESCAPE FROM REALITY.

WE IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT END OF THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM ARE CONTINUALLY WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS IN THE EDUCATION, PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION ASPECTS. WE WORK WITH THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY AND WE, OF COURSE, STAND READY TO ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE AS YOU BEGIN THE PRACTICE OF YOUR PROFESSION. CALL UPON US WHENEVER WE CAN BE OF HELP TO YOU.

A LITTLE WHILE AGO I MENTIONED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT YOU ALSO STAY ABREAST OF THE CHANGES IN THE SOCIETY ABOUT YOU AND THAT YOU BE WILLING TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THOSE CHANGES. I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT POINT AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO INVOLVE YOURSELF IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY IN THE GOOD THINGS WHICH WILL HAPPEN IN YOUR COMMUNITIES. FOR IN EVERY COMMUNITY, NO MATTER WHAT ITS SIZE OR THE MAKEUP OF ITS POPULATION, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SHUN CIVIC ENDEAVORS SAYING THAT THEY "JUST DON'G HAVE TIME" OR "JUST AREN'T JOINERS". IN SOME FEW INSTANCES THIS RELUCTANCE MAY BE JUSTIFIED AND UNDERSTANDABLE BUT IN MOST INSTANCES YOU AND I KNOW THAT IT IS NOT. AS PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE EACH OF YOU HAS TOO MUCH TO OFFER FOR EVEN ONE OF YOU TO ASSUME THIS ATTITUDE.

CONSIDER YOUR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND DO YOUR PART. YOU WILL DISCOVER WHAT THOSE WHO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE WILL NEVER DISCOVER: THE FEELING OF PERSONAL SATISFACTION THAT COMES FROM ENGAGING IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WHICH RESULT IN REAL AND LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR COMMUNITY CANNOT BE MATCHED BY ANY OTHER PERSONAL ENDEAVOR.

IN MY OPINION, NO MATTER WHAT CHANGES COME IN THE YEARS AHEAD, NOTHING WILL ALTER THE SATISFACTION TO BE DERIVED FROM UNSELFISH SERVICE BOTH TO THE BETTERMENT OF ONE'S PROFESSION AND OF ONE'S COMMUNITY.

IN CLOSING, LET ME REMIND EACH OF YOU THAT YOU ARE A PRIVILEGED PERSON, FOR YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN AN EXCELLENT SCHOOL, WHICH IS PART OF AN OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITY, TO PURSUE A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE PROFESSION.

BECAUSE YOU ARE SO PRIVILEGED AND BECAUSE YOUR POTENTIAL FOR GOOD IS SO GREAT, I BEG YOU NOT TO LEAVE THIS CAMPUS AND BECOME THE DEFENDERS OF PRIVILEGE OR PROPONENTS OF INTERESTS WHICH ARE SHORTSIGHTED AND SELFISH. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL, FOR I HAVE TREMENDOUS FAITH IN YOUR GENERATION. I URGE YOU TO "FIGHT FOR A FREE AMERICA - FOR A COUNTRY IN WHICH ALL MEN AND WOMEN HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS TO LIBERTY AND JUSTICE." "I URGE YOU TO FIGHT," AS I HOPE IT WILL SOMEDAY BE SAID I HAVE DONE, "FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE LITTLE MAN AS WELL AS THE BIG MAN - FOR THE WEAK AS WELL AS THE STRONG, FOR THOSE WHO ARE HELPLESS AS WELL AS THOSE WHO CAN HELP THEMSELVES." (FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT)