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A professional in the area of rehabilitation will tell you he has never "rehabilitated" anyone. The handicapped person has rehabilitated himself, with help and support from the professional. In the final analysis, it is up to the handicapped person to take charge of his own life, and when he triumphs, the credit is his.

Let me give two examples. The first deals with my good friend and colleague in the Senate -- Daniel Inouye from Hawaii.

As many of you who watched the Watergate hearings on TV noticed, Senator Inouye had one arm amputated in World War II. During his initial hospitalization and rehabilitation period,

he developed a strong urge to have a cigarette. He was lying on his back in a hospital bed and he asked his nurse for one. She obligingly tossed a full pack on his chest and left the ward.

Lt. Inouye shouted at the nurse to open the pack but she had left and no one else offered to help. With frustration, he began to tear at the pack with his one hand and then with his teeth. Finally he salvaged one cigarette from the mutilated pack.

Then he realized that he did not have a match. He called and called. Finally the nurse came. Angrily he asked her for a match and she put a book of matches on his chest. He was so frustrated by this time that he did not know whether to curse

her out or cry. He decided he was too old to cry and, as an officer, he felt he should not swear in the hospital; so he began to work on the pack of matches. Then with an angry sweep of his hand, he threw the matches on the floor.

"What is the matter, Lieutenant?" the nurse said, "Have you decided to quite smoking?"

When Lt. Inouye interrupted, "I can't get this damn cigarette lit; I only have one hand!"

Then, the nurse said, "But, Lieutenant I am not going to be here all your life," and with that, she picked up the matches, opened the pack, bent the match, struck it, and lit the cigarette. She did it all with one hand!

Some of you may question the nurse's attitude, but I think her actions were perfect. She helped Dan Inouye become rehabilitated. She not only showed him how to light his cigarette with one hand, but more importantly, she showed him the dignity of self-reliance. From that day on, he was well on his way to rehabilitation; he was well on his way to becoming part of society.

I have another example which involves a very good friend of mine from Winston-Salem, Bill Kiser.

Bill Kiser's situation was much different from Senator Inoye. He had cerebral palsy at a very early age, and was very much protected by his family and friends as well as by the many institutions he was assigned to later in life.

But in spite of this unenlightened rehabilitation philosophy, Bill wanted to become part of society. He had within him a spirit that few people saw.

There were two or three people, however, that came to feel Bill Kiser's spirit and they worked very hard to keep it kindled and directed.

Despite Bill's garbled speech and his inability to write by hand, he managed to get the equivalent of a high school education and even to take some college courses.

Under the strong leadership of several dedicated rehabilitation counselors, Bill learned to feed himself and to live more independently. From this point on Bill was

becoming part of society!

He began writing news articles and eventually formed his own public relations firm.

Today, he is the editor of several newsletters; he also has a syndicated newspaper column and writes a radio program for the Department of Human Resources called, "The Handicapped Mailbag."

What those of us who are fortunate enough not to suffer handicaps can do is to make it more possible for the handicapped person to help himself.

This new facility is an example. This provides a place for people to start back into society. It is in no way a

place in which to shut people away and forget about them.

We can help, too, by making a reasonable effort to remove barriers from the everyday environment, so that we do not inadvertently "shut out" the person who must get around in a wheelchair. Legislation passed here in North Carolina has been a model for the nation in this regard.

But we must remember that really all we are doing is clearing a path, or offering help to someone who is engaged in the biggest struggle of his life. That struggle will remain his, in the long run. The philosophy behind this new facility is that rehabilitation is not something that is done to the handicapped person. It is something he or she does, with other people. This is a sound approach. I am sure it

will be effective, as long as it is practiced here.