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SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
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Chairman John Edwards and Members of the Board

and Ladies and Gentlemen. Nothing could have pleased me more than the opportunity of coming here this evening and sharing a part in the dedication of the Johnston County Industries. I have had an opportunity to talk with many of you since I have been here but not enough of you. But nevertheless I have had a chance to talk with enough of you to know that we have people here this afternoon from various backgrounds with varied interests. And I came with a prepared speech as most politicians usually do but I want to lay that speech aside this afternoon and just tell you some of the things, some of the reasons that I believe its so important for us all to be here this afternoon and to

understand what the Johnston County Industries is all about. Every morning if you picked up the mornings paper today, for instance, on the front page of the Raleigh News and Observer the feature article dealt with some of our natural resources. It dealt with the fact that the use and consumption of petroleum products in America is continually rising every day. When we think in terms of the strength of this great country of ours, the Bicentennial of which we just we are now celebrating we usually think in the terms of material resources. How much oil and petroleum products do we have in this country? How much iron orr do we have? Do we have enough coal to last for generations to come? That is normally what we think of when we are talking in terms of natural resources. But let me tell you that in

my opinion the greatest resources that America has today are its people. One of the great debates that is going on in Washington every day and has gone on every day since I have been a member of the United States Senate for eighteen months is the relative strength of America militarily speaking with regard to the Communist block countries of the world.

Is Russia really stronger militarily than we are here in America. Let me give you my opinion. But let me tell you, of course, it is an uninformed opinion in many respects. But it is true today that Russia has twice as many men under arms as we do in the United States. Russia has four million men in the military. We have less than two million men in the military forces in this country. Russia has over 40 thousand tanks spread all along the Eastern frontier in Europe, East

Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and etc. While we in the West have only 9 thousand tanks and the Assistant Secretary of the Army was in my office some time ago with a chart showing - attempting to show me that their tanks are just as capable, just as strong as the American tanks. And he said if you don't believe it I will take you out to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds and we will watch the demonstrations and the tests made. He showed me the number of bombers that Russia has in comparison to the number of bombers that we in America have. We talked about the number of submarines. We talked about the number of missiles. And to be perfectly candid with you about the only thing that I can recall that he said to me and I have read these over and over and over is that we do have a great deal more helicopters than the Russians

and they are far better than the Russian helicopters. Well from all of this would you say that Russia that we are a second-rate power to Russia. The answer is clearly no. We are a first-rate power. We are the first-rate power because of the people of America. The people of our country are our greatest resources. And that's what the Johnston County Industries is all about. It is trying to take advantage of the capabilities of all of the people of this area regardless of their abilities. All of us in one way or another are handicapped or have been handicapped. And it has only been because of the generosity of those who have gone on before us and the determination of people like John Edwards and his board and his staff and others who have been willing to work and give others advantage to make use of their abilities that

many of us here today are where we are. You know some time ago when the Lord Chancellor of England and the Speaker of the House of Commons from England along with a delegation flew to Washington and brought with them that great document, the Magna Charta, that laid the foundation for all of the freedoms that you and I enjoy today. We had a dinner their one evening in the Art Gallery where Abraham Lincoln held his second inaugaural ball and as I set between Lord and Lady Rothbottom - I am always afraid I will say the wrong mispronounce it - and another member of the House of Parliament and we began to talk about our backgrounds. And I told them I was born in central North Carolina on a tobacco and cotton farm and of parents of meager means and when I said that Lord Rothbottom who is a British Ambassador to the

United States, he said you know you could never have happened in England. Under the circumstances under which you born and under which you grew up you could never have been a member of the Upper House of Parliament in England as you are here in the United States. But that has been made possible because of dedicated people like many of you here today. I tell this story not to reflect upon my mother's background but to praise her for her determination. My mother was illiterate. She was unable to read or write because she didn't grow up in a community where there was public school education available. But she recognized in her own children that there were some capabilities that could be developed and through her dogged determination even though she was illiterate and through that of my father

who possessed very little more education my sisters and I were given opportunities to develop our capabilities that we would not have normally have had. Mamma was determined that I would have an opportunity for an education and one of the most vivid memories I have of my mother was as I drove home from Wake Forest Law School on a Friday afternoon to find Mamma out in the field beside of the House, picking cotton and earning enough money to keep me in college so that I, too, could develop these capabilities. And she did the same thing for my sister and my sister thirty years ago recognized the capabilities of many other people who were handicapped in different ways from the way that we were. Where were handicapped physically or mentally and she went off down into Daytona Beach, Florida and she took

a job, oh its been at least thirty years ago, with the Junior Service League, an organization in Daytona Beach who recognized that many people with physical and mental handicaps could make a very real and meaningful contribution to society if they were just given an opportunity and in addition to making a very real and meaningful contribution to society they could learn to live a very meaningful and enjoyable and fruitful life for themselves. And it was there that my sister began to work with the physically and the mentally handicapped. And Claudette was there in Florida some twenty-five years ago. I am not sure what the history of the sheltered workshops are. That in Valusa County she was assigned a job for one year to see what you can do about finding jobs for people who possess handicaps to such an extent

that industry is not willing to give them an opportunity.

And she found that there were jobs that people with mental handicaps could do far better than those who were not mentally retarded. For instance, there were jobs such as some of those that are being done here where you sit and do the same thing day in and day out. Assemble screws and nuts and bolts. For those of us who are not quite as retarded it might really drive us insane if provided a very meaningful job. And my sister there began to place them with industry and she would say to the industry just as you are doing here. Now if you will take this handicapped person and give him or her an opportunity we will check on them regularly so that if that person is not performing then you won't be embarrassed and be put in the position of having to

dismiss of them we will move them. And there was twenty-five or thirty years ago that I first began to learn of the possibilities that could come from working with people with handicap. Now I could go on and tell you many, many other similar stories but it is a heartwarming experience for those of us here today who if you haven't had an opportunity to sit here or to go around and to talk with some of these people who are now earning some money for the first time in their lives. Who are able for the first time in their lives to take their own money and go down and buy their own clothes for instance. If you haven't had that experience before we leave here this afternoon circulate around and talk to some of the people. Some of us were over at Rocky Mount a few Sundays ago when we dedicated a similar place there. And I

talked to a elderly gentleman who wouldn't even stop working long enough on Sunday afternoon for us to dedicate the building. He was standing there at a metal lay - I think that is what you call them - turning screws on the end of a black rod that was going to be used by one of the local manufacturers to make lamps to be sold. And I asked someone who knew him well I said, "What did this man do before he came here and worked and began to work in this industry?" And the man said you know what he did he said all of his life he pushed himself around the streets of Rocky Mount sitting on a little square roller with some wheels on it and he would sit on and push himself around the streets. But because of this dedication of people over there like those of you here. There is a man who is living a very

meaningful life, making a very meaningful contribution to society and earning his own livelihood. I talked here this afternoon with a young lady who described to me very proudly the job that she is doing here in this industry and I asked her where she had been beforehand. And she told me that up until she came here she had been in one of our institutions in North Carolina. And I said were you working there. No she wasn't working there. But she said since I came here and have began to assemble these products my coordination is getting better. And she was just as proud of that job as she could be. She was proud of the fact that she had earned some money for herself. So you see the kind of contribution the kind of contributions that the sheltered workshop industries are making. And there are literally hundreds and thousands

of others across North Carolina and across this nation who could be making the same kind of contributions to society and through themselves if they were only given an opportunity. And I say that here this afternoon for those of you who are not handicapped. And for those of you who may not know what is going on here. If you don't know want you please take a look and see if there is something that you can do to help aid this industry. If you happen to be the managers or the owners or the operators of some of the industries in this area won't you take a look around your industry and seeing if there are some things being done in your industry that could better be done by people who are handicapped and that you might get a better job done by farming it out to people who are working here. And by doing so

give other people great opportunities. I am reluctant to mention the name of any industry because I know there are many industries here that have corporated but just let me mention the name of Abbott Laboratories over in Rocky Mount because I saw the same work going on in Rocky Mount at their industries over there that is going on here and then I happened to have lunch with the President of Abbott Laboratories in the Senate Dining Room sometime ago and we talked there about it - the work that was being done. And they are proud of that kind of work. So to make a project lasts like this and to make it meaningful its one that has to be understood by all of us and has to have our full cooperation so want you help your the directors and the board spread the word. Now I am going to tell you one final story that I can't resist telling even though my friend

Claude, and others have heard it many times. When I was Attorney General a few years ago I knew very little about the obstacles that handicapped individuals had to come had to overcome until I was approached by people in the vocation and rehabilitation division and by some of the Easter Seal people and I was asked one day along with Governor Scott if we wouldn't take a ride around Raleigh in a wheelchair. And just to see what kind of difficulties a person in a wheelchair would have to overcome. And we started off there in the Governor's Mansion and we couldn't get down the steps of the Governor's Mansion, the Mansion that belonged to the people of North Carolina and there we were couldn't down those steps without somebody literally picking us up bodily with the chairs and taking us down those steps. And then

we went from there over to the Archives and History Building one of the most modern buildings in all of Raleigh just completed I couldn't get a drink of water because I was sitting in a wheelchair and you see I was assuming the role of the handicapped. There wasn't a single water fountain in that building that I could come up to with a wheelchair and get a drink of water. And then I went over to that great legislative building which is one of the prides and joys of North Carolina and I tried to go to a restroom and their wasn't a men's restroom with a door wide enough for me to get into it with a wheelchair. And so with all of the architects and all of the great planners we had neglected some of our most important people. But these are not the only ones we were neglecting. I came

to know Bill Kizer. And I want bother to tell you the long story about Bill Kizer except to say that I believe was it this year that he won the National Handicap Award of the Year. Bill Kizer suffers with cerebral palsy. He is confined to a wheelchair. You can't understand him talk and I can't understand him talk except through the years I begun to understand a little bit of what he says. But for a long time Bill was from rest home to institution to rest home because nobody thought he had any capabilities. And some body in the vocational rehabilitation division up in Claude Meyers section up in Winston-Salem years ago recognized that Bill Kizer had capabilities. All he needed was an opportunity and they began to work with him and devise means and ways and develop a typewriter that he could

type so that he could convey his thoughts and they found that instead of a mentally insane person that harbored up in that withered body of his was a keen intellect. And Bill Kizer today writes a syndicated column called "A Handicapped Mailbag". You have probably heard it on radio stations on Saturday morning and it is carried in newspaper across the country. Because somebody took the time to help him develop his capabilities and as I came to know Bill I was called on one afternoon to dedicate the Chapel at the Crippled Childrens Camp in Southern Pines. At that time back in the early fifties I was working closely with the Easter Seal Society and we built up there a camp where crippled children could go and just enjoy a few of the things that you and I had always taken for granted.

A swimming pool that was especially designed for them so that they could go swimming. Dormitories where they could get in and out of. And this was a particular Chapel so that these crippled and handicapped people could go and as I began to wonder what I was going to say I called on my friend, Bill Kizer, and I asked Bill to write me a speech and to say in that speech exactly what he would say if he were able to stand before that audience and deliver it and I promised him that I would give him exactly as he wrote it. And of all of the speeches that I have ever given in my life that was the most beautiful and heartwarming speech that I have ever heard. But I will never forget the way in which he closed that speech. He said if the morning if the headlines in the morning papers were to declare that some great natural

resource such as oil or gold or other minerals had been discovered in North Carolina that it wouldn't take us long to find the money to develop and market those resources. But he said we have the same kind of resources harbored up in our handicapped citizens in North Carolina and all in the world that we need to do is to make the commitment of our own time and our own money and our own resources to develop to inable these people to develop their skills and to market them and that is what we have done here in Johnston County and I think you ought to be justly proud of what you have done and I hope that every one of you here will see to it that your neighbors know what is going on here and that they help promote this industry that is most, most important. Thank you very very much.