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Vocational Rehabilitation (09-11)

Rehabilitating the physically handicapped is one of the most important functions of our state department of education. I hope that it shall continue to be so important that this phase of adult assistance will continue to enrich our state.

To know that South Carolina has rehabilitated more than 1,400 individuals in a single year, at a cost so low as to be astounding, is to recognize the great work that is being done under the direction of P. G. Sherer who for more than 16 years has been in charge of this work. He and all members of his division should be commended for the splendid manner in which they are restoring to health and economic stability the physically handicapped people of South Carolina.

I want the department of education and the division of vocational rehabilitation to know that I, as governor of South Carolina, am glad to cooperate in this splendid program.

I believe that restoration of a person's self-respect and his belief in himself can be one of the greatest things in this type of education. A person who is physically unable to earn a living and to provide for his natural dependents is likely to become sick at heart. There are thousands of living persons in South Carolina who are examples of how this feeling of self-respect has been restored through the efforts of the division of vocational rehabilitation.

Another phase of this program is the lifting from the shoulders of the state and federal governments, the economic loss entailed by support, through public welfare funds, of the needy. A worker restored to health and placed ^{in a job,} through training and

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guidance of the department, ~~in a job~~ can then provide support to his family. Increase of his earnings means that the family is no longer forced to look to the state for financial assistance.

It is important that vocational rehabilitation in South Carolina be continued on as full ~~x~~ basis as is commensurate with our ability to pay. Our state needs the earnings and the abilities of all of our people; we should go ~~to~~ the limit of our economy to develop those abilities among the handicapped and assist them in husbanding their earnings.

To me the living examples of this assistance are the best reasons for continued support of the program. I am sure that the people of South Carolina agree.