

## Speech for Crop Walk

Today you embark upon a journey, a journey of unselfish dedication for those less fortunate. Those whose lives will be enhanced immeasurably in terms of the basic essentials of human existence: food, water, sanitation, training and emergency help when needed. As a public official who everyday, must deal with the government response to these needs, one comes to the realization that there isn't enough, particularly in today's climate of, "let those less fortunate fend for themselves." So it's particularly gratifying to see so many people and especially young people, who have taken the time to join in this CROP Walk today.

Believe me, as a society, we are at a crossroads, a crossroads that is rapidly changing the terms of the state and federal government contracts with the most needy and vulnerable among us. Many will say that welfare abuses were virulent and something must be done, and perhaps so. But I fear we are going way beyond the

necessity of clearing away the abuses, and now have left, and will leave, many deserving people, mostly women, children and the disabled without the benefit of a government safety net. So today your efforts are magnanimous, an act of selflessness that needs to be commended because volunteer efforts such as yours are much more necessary. The needs of so many can only be fulfilled by ever increasing efforts of private citizen volunteers such as this CROP Walk and the other such generous acts from within our communities.

In closing let me leave you with a quote from Father Thomas Merton, Trappist monk, prolific writer and Social Commentator of ~~the~~ Post World War II to 1968 when he died at a very young age, about responsibility.

"It is extremely important that we get a grip on ourselves and determine that we will not relinquish either our reason or our humanity, that we will not despair of ourselves or of man, or our capacity to solve our problems, that we will make use of our faculties and resources we have in abundance, and use them for positive and constructive action. We will resist the fatal inclination to passivity and despair as well as the fatuous temptation to false optimism. In a word we will behave as men, and if Christian, then as members of Christ." ~~Ladies~~

Ladies and gentlemen by your action today you  
are a manifestation of that definition of <sup>responsibility</sup> written over  
three decades ago. You are indeed members of Christ.

God Bless you for your service to your fellow-man!

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POLICY

September 26, 1996

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Believe me, as a society, we are at a crossroads, a crossroads that is rapidly changing the terms of the state and federal government contracts with the most needy *Welfare* and vulnerable among us. Many will say that ~~abuses~~ were virulent and something must be done, and perhaps so. But I fear we are going way beyond the necessity of clearing away the abuses and now have left, and will leave, many deserving people, mostly women and children and the disabled without the benefit of a government safety net. So today your efforts are magnanimous and an act of selflessness that needs to be commended because ~~your exertion on this CROP Walk is also a very~~ *volunteer* ~~much needed necessity.~~ Needs of so many can only be fulfilled by this CROP Walk *efforts* and ~~the~~ other such generous acts ~~by others.~~ *Such As yours are becoming much more necessary.*

The

*from within our communities.*

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