



The WORK of the

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, INC.

Authors and Sponsors: "NATIONAL EMPLOY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WEEK"

Under leadership of Paul A. Strachan, who founded the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, September 30, 1940, a small band of men and women, the majority of whom were handicapped, launched the AFPH program. The Federation was formally chartered August 20, 1942, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., as a non-profit, educational, beneficent organization. Memberships are open to both handicapped and non-handicapped.



Paul A. Strachan

Thousands of letters were received from men and women across country, seeking information and service. Others came to the tiny office in the National Press Building, looking for jobs they could do in spite of their particular disability.

There was little money with which to meet the many demands. The pioneering group refrained from using the "sob-story" appeal since it represented those who in spite of a physical disability wanted to earn their way. AFPH knew there were thousands of others who felt the same way.

It soon became apparent that although a public education program was necessary, the only hope of getting some kind of order out of chaos was to begin with the Congress. Research revealed that more than 35 Federal agencies each had a piece of a program of benefit to handicapped men and women.

The Federal-State program for rehabilitation and training was inadequate. Because of lack of educational and training facilities injured men and women frequently had to wait many months, or even years, before they could find some way to be trained for a job they could do in spite of their particular handicap.

At the beginning of World War II the nation was in need of manpower and America had millions of men and women willing to do their share even though they could not meet the physical requirements for service in the armed forces. It was then the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped began its crusade to convince the employer that qualified physically handicapped men and women could, through selective placement, do a good job.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- The Federal Vocational Training Act was passed by Congress, June 20, 1920. All subsequent legislation for handicapped has stemmed from that Act. Arthur Holder and N. P. Alifas, of the International Association of Machinists, and Paul A. Strachan, were the three primarily responsible for the fight to get the original legislation enacted into law.

- AFPH conducted a campaign eventuating in Federal Government making a "Survey of Jobs for Handicapped". Some 8,600 of the 25,339 jobs in the Occupational Directory can satisfactorily be filled by persons with various types of Handicaps.

- Succeeded in getting Congress to establish the House Education and Labor Subcommittee to Investigate Aid to the Physically Handicapped. Approximately 500 witnesses testified, representing various groups and individuals at interest. Hearings were conducted during 1944-45-46.

- In 1945 began the campaign to establish a FEDERAL AGENCY FOR HANDICAPPED, presenting a comprehensive overall program which would coordinate activities of some 35 Federal agencies, each having part of the program.

- Author and sponsor "NATIONAL EMPLOY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WEEK", approved by Congress. Former President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 176, August 11, 1945, establishing the first full week in October each year as NEPHWEEK.

- In 1947 organized and wrote the administrative policies for the President's Committee on Employ the Handicapped, with representatives from approximately 250 National Organizations of Industry, Business, Labor, Farm, Religious, Educational, Medical, Women's, Civic, Fraternal, Scientific and other groups and individuals.

- Spearheaded campaign resulting in enactment of the Omnibus Medical Research Act, August 15, 1950, from which, approximately \$150,000,000 has been appropriated for work at the National Institutes of Health.

- In 1954, secured approval of amendments to present Vocational Rehabilitation Act which increases appropriation from \$23,500,000 to \$65,000,000 in three years, and among other things provides for establishment of

A NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL which will afford a means of Labor, Management, Handicapped, and Professional Representatives, passing upon new projects.

Grants to Homebound Handicapped (shut-ins)— Provides for 6-months' survey by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and report to Con-

gress, on needs for teaching and training homebound individuals, especially in rural areas.

Amendments to Wagner-Peyser Act, providing that there be a specialist in each of the State and Federal Employment Offices to render counseling and job placement services to handicapped persons.

- Resolutions have been drafted for State Legislatures to establish an Advisory Committee on Affairs of Handicapped. Pennsylvania has enacted this resolution into law.

OTHER PHASES OF AFPH PROGRAM

National Conferences on Placement of Severely Handicapped (60% to 100% disabled). "Proceedings" of the Conferences already held may be procured from the National Headquarters.

Plans for an "AFPH Institute for Human Engineering."

Participation in State and Local programs of benefit to Handicapped through AFPH State Departments, Lodges, members-at-large.

Special services to assist Handicapped.

Dissemination of factual and educational material affecting Handicapped.

Promotion of "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week."

PROGRAM ENDORSED

AFPH has worked in close cooperation with business men and women, with civic, veterans, religious, labor and farm organizations, and with government officials. Its program has been endorsed by Convention action of the American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations, Rail Brotherhoods, and the United Mine Workers of America. Fraternal and women's service organizations are working with AFPH in carrying forward its goal of developing job opportunities.

Of the approximate 38,000,000 Handicapped, it is estimated that 7 to 9 million are severely handicapped, that is 60% to 100% disabled. Adequate training and educational facilities are not available to all.

Each year, as a result of injury or disease, there is a new group of handicapped men and women who must adjust to a new way of life. Included are those lacking vision, hearing, use of arms or legs; cardiacs, TBs, epileptics, diabetics, cerebral palsied, etc.

After nearly fifteen years' work, the public is beginning to have a keener appreciation of what the Handicapped man or woman can do, when given an opportunity. It knows, for instance, that many of these men and women can participate and share in community activities as well as be self-supporting.

MONEY IS NEEDED TO CARRY ON WORK

The American Federation of the Physically Handicapped needs your financial support. The work thus far accomplished has been of value not only to the working man and woman, but to the Nation as a whole.

With men and women earning their way, they are not only happier but add to the purchasing power of the country.

Send your contribution *today* to the

American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, Inc.
National Headquarters, 1370 National Press Building
Washington 4, D. C.

You will receive an official acknowledgment.

(Contributions to AFPH Educational Fund are tax-deductible)

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American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, Inc.
National Headquarters, 1370 National Press Building
Washington 4, D. C. REpublic 7-1314