



News

August, 1986

A GRASSROOTS GROUNDSWELL



In the 103 degree heat, in the heat of the special session, 200 human services supporters gathered on the south steps of the Capitol to call "Raise Revenue, No Cuts".

Carrying posters reading "Enough is Enough" and "Human Services are Cut to the Bone the crowd, most of whom were disabled, chanted "More Cuts. No Cuts" and "Texas Government's losing face...Texas funding is a disgrace".

Speakers addressing the rally included: Lt. Governor Bill Hooby, Representative Lena Guerrero, Senator Chet Brooks (Chair of the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee), Senator Carlos Truan and Senator Gonzalo Barrantos. In addition, CTD President, Bob Kafka and spokespersons for the Texas Council of Youth Services, the Texas Alliance for Human Needs and the Gray Panthers also addressed the crowd. All the speakers, legislators and "lay persons" alike, spoke of the importance of funding human services and the need to raise revenue to do this.

Each of the participants at the rally received a packet of information and went to visit legislators to bring them the message of how proposed cuts will be hurting people. Additionally, the Senate and Health and Human Resources Committee and the House Human

(more)

Services Committee held a joint hearing after the rally and heard four hours of testimony from about 50 supporters of services. Legislators supporting human services agreed with Rep. Guerrero who said "This is just the kind of grassroots ground swell which will help show the need for these services."

Lending to CTD's statewide focus, a simultaneous press conference was held in Houston, and in El Paso CTD members visited legislators' home offices calling for no cuts for human services.



TELEPHONE DAY

We are mid-way through the Special Session. The house has passed their budget proposal. The Senate must respond and then a compromise must be reached. No decisions are final yet. We must keep the pressure on, and continue to let legislators know we are serious when we say we can not afford to cut funding for human services.

CTD is urging our members to participate in a telephone day on August 28th. On that day CTD members, the members of CTD organizations and their friends, co-workers, etc. are urged to make 3 calls. One to Speaker Gib Lewis, one to your state representative and one to your state Senator.

You need to tell them three things: 1) one is that you are a member of some group (CTD, your local organization, your church, whatever group you wish), 2) Also, you need to tell them a personal story of someone you know who uses or has benefited from Texas' disability services, or someone who has already been hurt by cuts. Keep it personal. You don't need to be an expert on funding or service delivery, you just know one human being who is benefiting or who has been hurt.

3) Tell them you support no cuts in human services. No final deals have been made so your comments cannot be irrelevant. This will not take long and it will be extremely helpful. We must bring the decision to the level of people's lives (which is where cuts will be felt), instead of the level of numbers and dollars.

Gib Lewis' number is 512-463-1000. Call the CTD Central office for more information: 512/443-8252.



MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE CTD NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

It is time for individuals and group representatives to plan to attend the CTD Ninth Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas October 17-19, 1986. The Holiday Inn Brook Hollow is the site for this year's convention. A special room rate of \$45.00 for 1-4 persons should allow several representatives from each organization to attend. Car pools and van pools can further help keep the convention expenses down. The registration fee for this year's convention is \$15.00 and the cost of Saturday night's banquet is \$10.00. The yearly membership zations should be paid before the convention to insure voting privileges and representation. As mentioned in previous articles, the individual dues have been increased this year to \$12.00 and is not included in your registration fee. Individual dues that are not current may be paid with the convention registration.

We want to encourage local organizations to send as many representatives as possible

to this year's convention. The convention theme is "The Political Process: Using it For Change." The keynote speaker will be State Representative Jack Vowell of El Paso. Representative Vowell was last year's recipient of CTD's Public Servant of the Year Award. Representative Vowell has consistently supported programs that promote the independence of disabled Texans. Workshops scheduled this year include: "Your Rights and the Voting Rights Act" with Phil Calkins, a national leader in advocating for voting rights, and John Steiner of the Texas Secretary of State's Office; "Legislative Lobbying" with Betty Button and Alan Deitz, consultants in the field of legislation and human services; "Networking" with Carmen Quesada, Executive Director of the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Texas and "Liability Insurance/Tort Reform-Playing Politics" with Tom Smith, Director, Public Citizen of Texas. Also invited this year to address the convention is, Attorney General Jim Mattox. The Convention will consider resolutions and elect members to the CTD Board of Directors. The key to the success of the CTD Annual Convention is your participation. Make your plans now to attend an interesting, informative and exciting convention in Dallas. Consider staying in Dallas a few extra days and attending the Sesquicentennial State Fair and see the sites around Big D. For more information contact the CTD Central office.



GROWING NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS PUSHING FOR EQUAL AIR TRAVEL FOR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS

A growing number of federal legislators, of both parties, are supporting legislation designed to close a legislative loophole which currently allows airlines to discriminate against America's 36 million handicapped citizens, reported R. Jack Powell, executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

According to Powell, legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress to amend the Federal Aviation Act that will provide disabled air travelers protection from discrimination. The legislation became necessary when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, based on current law, that airlines could discriminate against passengers with a disability. The parties in the case were the FVA and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The increasing number of legislators supporting this legislation is an indication of a growing feeling nationwide that this is legislation "whose time has come". Powell called for quick passage during the closing days of the 99th Congress to solve the continuing problems for disabled air travelers. Powell said, "No longer is air travel a luxury. It is now an accepted fact of life-- and this includes people with a disability and some of our elderly citizens."



HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT SIGNED INTO LAW PL 99-372 ALLOWS ATTORNEYS FEES FOR PARENTS

The Handicapped Children's Protection Act was signed into law on August 5, 1986. The Act, Public Law 99-372, changes the Education of the Handicapped Act to allow parents to get back their attorney fees and costs from the school when they win a lawsuit that forces a school district to provide appropriate educational services to a handicapped student. The costs which can be recovered include reasonable expenses, fees of expert witnesses, and the costs of any test or evaluation necessary for the preparation of the case.

The reason for the Act was that in July, 1984 the United States Supreme Court had decided that parents could not be reimbursed

for attorneys fees in special education cases. The result of the decision discouraged many parents from contacting attorneys or even starting the complaint process. The Handicapped Children's Protection Act was introduced in Congress to overturn the Supreme Court decision. It took almost two years to pass because of the extraordinary amount of lobbying against it by the National School Boards Association and the American Association of School Administrators.

Two Texas parents who played key roles in the passage of the Act testified to Congress that they would not have even begun their cases if they thought they could never be reimbursed for their attorneys' fees after winning their cases. Mary Tatro testified in the Senate about her experiences in bringing Tatro v. Irving I.S.D. Because of the Tatro case, decided 9-0 by the United States Supreme Court, thousands of students across the nation have begun receiving school health services such as catheterization and suctioning which enable them to attend a full day of school.

Beverly Galarza testified in the House of Representatives about her son's case, Alamo Heights v. State Board of Education. That case, decided by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, is now the leading case in the nation on the provision of summer services to handicapped students. It set the standard for deciding what children will receive summer services. It also allows reimbursement to parents who have been wrongfully denied summer programs and have had to pay for private services.

PL 99-372 amends the law back to July, 1984, so cases that were active at the time as well as lawsuits brought since that date can now recover attorney fees.



NATIONWIDE "DISABLED BUT ABLE TO VOTE" DRIVE UNDERWAY

Twenty-nine national disability organizations and hundreds of community groups are participating in DISABLED BUT ABLE TO VOTE: CAMPAIGN DRIVE '86, the most extensive coordinated effort ever undertaken to give disabled citizens a voice at the polls.

"We want to send a message to politicians of both parties that disability issues are a high priority for people with disabilities and their families when it comes to voting," said Phil Calkins, Coordinator of DISABLED BUT ABLE TO VOTE (DBATV). "There are more than twenty million adults with disabilities in this country. Add to that the parents of children with disabilities, other family members and advocates, and you have one of the most potentially powerful voting blocs in America-- almost as numerous as the total number of voters in the '84 presidential election. So you can see that we've got the numbers. If only twenty percent of us vote and make disability issues a major concern, we can have quite an impact on the '86 elections. By joining together, we can create a unified presence and operate more efficiently. In addition, members of local affiliates and other community groups will have opportunities to work together to strengthen their collective base at the community and state levels."

DBATV will be non-partisan and will not endorse candidates or parties. "But we hope that our activities will encourage persons with disabilities, parents, and advocates to involve themselves in all aspects of the democratic process," said Justin Dart, co-founder of DBATV. "Both Phil Calkins-- a Democrat--and I-- a Republican--believe

strongly that participation in the electoral process--registering, voting, supporting candidates and parties of your choice, and running for offices--is crucial to the resolution of disability issues in America," Dart said.

DBATV activities will include a nationwide telephone campaign, a newsletter, technical assistance by mail and telephone, and meetings in at least twenty-three states to plan coordinated voter registration drives.



Bits and Pieces

* Very Special Arts announces the third annual Itzhak Perlman Scholarship to recognize a student with a disability who has exhibited outstanding talent in the performing arts. The 1986 award will provide up to \$5,000 to a student with a disability who wishes to pursue further studies in voice. Any student with a disability under the age of 21, who seeks to pursue studies in voice is eligible. To apply, send a letter of application with a cassette tape or 3/4" videotape of a vocal performance to: Special Projects Coordinator, Very Special Arts, Education office, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. 20566. The letter of application should include a brief biography of the applicant with a sponsor's name, address and phone number. The deadline for application is September 1, 1986.



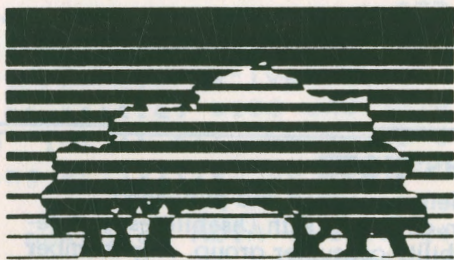
* The United States Amputee Athletic Association will host it's 6th National Amputee Championships September 3-7, 1986 at Tennessee State University. For more information contact National Amputee Games for the Disabled, P.O. Box 4088, Nashville, Tennessee, 37204, 615/824-4353.



**National Amputee
Games for
the Disabled**



* Warm Springs Canopy 10K, Saturday, September 27, 1986 Race starts at 9:00 am, wheelchairs at 8:45 am. Registration is 7:15 - 7:45 am. Palmetto State Park on Park Road 11 off Highway 183 (midway between Luling and Gonzales). For more information contact Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital, attn: Public Education Department, P.O. Box 58, Gonzales, Texas 78629, 512/672-6592.



**WARM SPRINGS
CANOPY 10K**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marshall Mitchell".

Marshall Mitchell
Co-Founder of ADIA

* Home Study Course Available: "Making a Difference: Active Participation in the Legislative Process.": Designed for those wanting to become more directly and effectively involved in the ongoing activities of our state government, particularly the legislative process. For registration and information about other home study courses contact: Button and Dietz, Inc., P.O. Box 19243, Austin, Texas 78760-9243, 512/444-9822.




"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CTD EDITORS' NOTE

The CTD Newsletter is edited and published by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, a state-wide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to:

CTD
P.O. Box 4709
Austin, TX 78765



Amarillo Disabled Individuals

In Action

P.O. Box 2662

Amarillo, TX 79105

Dear Fellow CTD Members,

A few months ago, CTD made an appeal to its member organizations for financial support. CTD exists of and for its members. The legislative and general advocacy which CTD does is done on behalf of its members. Most of those activities are not practically possible for each local organization. Laws have been passed due to CTD's efforts, which benefit all disabled Texans.

The advocacy and information gathering and sharing done by CTD is essential to organizations in outlying geographical areas. Amarillo Disabled Individuals in Action (ADIA) has voted to support CTD on an on-going basis. ADIA realizes the necessity of a quality representative at the state level. We gave an initial \$100 and later agreed to give CTD 10% of all the funds we raise in fundraising activities up to \$500 a year.

The board of ADIA challenges other CTD member organizations to commit a percentage of their fundraising money to CTD. CTD exists for you! Its only right that you support them financially. Its an investment that will yield an enormous return for years to come.

Sincerely,



Marshall Mitchell
Co-Founder of ADIA



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
P.O. Box 4709
Austin, Texas 78765

(512) 443-8252 V/TTY

August 20, 1986

To: CTD Members
From: Marshall Mitchell, Chairperson
CTD Long Range Planning Committee
Re: CTD Mission Statement and Long
Range Goals

At their April meeting the CTD Board of Directors voted to create a Long Range Planning Committee to develop a Mission Statement and Long Range Goals for CTD. President Bob Kafka asked me to chair the committee which consist of the following members:

- Pat McCallum - Seagoville
- Steve Johns - Dallas
- Pat Pound - Austin
- Jerry Zenor - Austin
- Alan Meyer - Houston

The committee has been asked to report at the 9th Annual Convention in Dallas. The CTD board approved the enclosed Long Range Goals and Mission Statement at its August Board meeting. Now we need your input. Please review these goals and the Mission Statement and send your suggestions to the central office by September 8. A revised set of goals and a Mission Statement will be presented at the Annual Convention based on your recommendations.

This is your opportunity to have input into the direction of CTD for the next five years. BUT YOU MUST RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 8th or YOUR INPUT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

We look forward to hearing from you. See you in Dallas!

DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) is a statewide organization representing persons with disabilities. The purpose of CTD is to work together toward obtaining equal opportunities to achieve the highest quality of life and independence possible.

CTD is composed primarily of persons with disabilities and organizations interested in disability issues. CTD advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities through networking, information gathering and sharing, legislative education and organizing for action.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

LONG RANGE GOALS - CTD

These draft goals and objectives represent issues which need to be addressed by CTD over the next 5 years. They will be reviewed and updated yearly to insure current relevancy.

GOAL I

Continue to research issues at the state and federal level and educate the membership of appropriate action needed.

Objectives:

1. Monitor issues of and actions by the state and federal legislature.
2. Inform local and state membership of appropriate action needed on issues by monthly and quarterly newsletters.
3. Maintain thorough records of information gathered and for future use.

GOAL II

Establish regional administrative and geographical subdivisions of CTD within the next two years.

Objectives:

1. Establish a geographically balanced task force at the 1986 Annual Convention to explore the possibilities of equitable and workable regional divisions and its operations to report to the Board of Directors on or before the date of the 1987 Annual Convention.
2. Assist member organizations to organize regional coalitions within their subdivision if they wish to do so.
3. Encourage membership in both the regional and state coalitions.

GOAL III

Create on-going revenue sources that will sustain CTD financially for years to come.

Objectives:

1. Establish a standing committee at the 1986 Annual Convention to explore both public and private revenue sources.

2. Explore viable business possibilities which would both provide a valuable service and generate income.

3. Increase membership involvement in the financial support of CTD based on recommendations of the Membership Committee.

4. Consider potentially profitable investments at such time that the financial circumstances will allow.

GOAL IV

Continue to work closely with local state and federal entities to provide the best possible educational and informational opportunities for members of CTD.

Objectives:

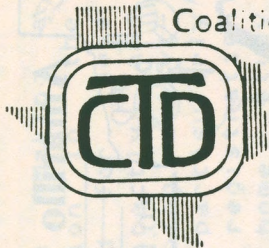
1. Locate significant individual and/or group contacts in currently inactive areas. (East Texas, the valley, Fort Worth, and South West Texas).

2. Assist individuals in those areas to establish an active local consumer organization if feasible.

3. Provide information through mailings, personal contacts, and/or workshops to those individuals and groups to increase their awareness of the issues and local available resources.

4. Assign CTD Board and/or general members to be liasons to those areas.

5. Explore the feasibility of holding a future CTD Annual Convention in one of those areas.



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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