

REPORT ON MY SPEECH AT THE SIR JOHN CLANCY AUDITORIUM

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF
NURSES FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY RETARDED ON SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 1978.

I read about this Conference one day before in the Saturday Issue of the Sydney Morning Herald and decided immediately to attend. I was heartened in my task when meeting the convenors of the Conference, Mr. J. Mitchell, and Mrs. Joy Woodhouse the Supervisor of Gladesville Hospital. I was in fact jubilant when Mrs. Woodhouse told me that she sent me some time ago an enamelled badge of the Society of Nurses in which she used my symbols. And here below is the gist of my talk.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First let me give my thanks to Mr. J. Mitchell and Ms. Joy Woodhouse for giving me the privilege to address you. I promised them not to worry you more than 5 minutes but worry you I will. But I am not a bad fellow. On the contrary people think I am a jolly good fellow.

To mollify you allow me to repeat what I said to Canadian nurses 6½ years ago on Tuesday 9 May, 1972. I said:

"You nurses have a hard life with long hours, bad pay and a backbreaking and heartbreaking job. Why have you chosen such a job? You could just as well be a typist in an office or have any other much easier and better paid jobs. Indeed you may even be a saleslady at Woolworths, get your pay and go home without any emotional worry which you now have, dealing with sick, unhappy and hopelessly braindamaged children. Why do you do it?"

Let me tell you. Unfortunately there is no blackboard here as otherwise I would have shown you in my symbols how highly I think of you nurses. For you, working for a living is just not enough. You feel an ethical urge to help the helpless. And therefore you have chosen a backbreaking and heartbreaking job which makes you worry for your wards all the time. I salute you my friends and I thank you in the name of all the sick children of the world."

Now my friends, let me quote a saying of the Romans of old, who said 2000 years ago in Latin, and let me translate every word into English:

"Nemo propheta - no prophet - in sua patria - in his fatherland - honorem habet - no honour has."

And this fits me 2000 years later. Though I am born in Europe, Australia is now my fatherland. I am 32 years here and could not find recognition for my work right here in Sydney.

Came Canada, and now my work is used for mentally retarded and brain damaged children all over the world and even in all Australian states - BUT STILL NOT IN SYDNEY. Why not here in Sydney? This is easy to explain. I

am a nobody in the treatment of mentally retarded children. I have no diploma and therefore no right to teach it. A few weeks ago I saw on TV that wonderful musical THE WIZARD OF OZ. I am sure you all know it and you may remember Scarecrow who is terribly unhappy and tells the Wizard of Oz that he is only stuffed with straw and has no brain. The Wizard answers :

"My friend, there are a lot of people in the world who have no brain. but they have something else - a diploma - and I will give you a diploma".

Now my friends, why do I talk about all this? Because I have very good news for you. My symbol system simply works wonders with intellectually retarded children and even with children during the first 24 months. One week ago I was in Mackay, Queensland, in the School for Sub-normal children, under the direction of the Principal Mr. Ivan Medew. He taught his sub-normal children the use of my symbol system. And when I tested them I found that they were not mentally retarded at all. Yes, they had a vacant stare, yes, the saliva is dripping out of their open mouths, yes they can only go and work with jerking movements, yes, they can't write and some can't even read the alphabet and the idiotic combinations of the alphabet. But they can say what they want to say in my symbols. And they did it to my great delight. And this wonder is now being repeated all over the world. And therefore I invite you all to take an interest in my symbol system for the intellectually retarded children under your care. And here is the good news I have for you.

The Federal Minister for Education, the Hon. Senator J.L. Carrick has given me through the Federal Schools Commission, a modest grant to teach the teachers, therapists, speech pathologists and nurses in all Australian Schools for handicapped children my system. You will get my textbook and all the papers of my Correspondence Course free. And I invite you to approach me during the morning tea recess and enrol in my course.

Thank you very much.

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