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REMARKS BY
THE HONORABLE GRETA JOY DICUS
CHAIRMAN
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

AT THE

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF
NRC COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM

10:00 A.M. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1999

Good morning. My colleagues and I are pleased to join you this morning as we begin the 1999-2000 Combined Federal Campaign. As you know, the NRC Chairman serves every year as the Honorary CFC Chairman. I am delighted to participate in this year's Kickoff as one of the last NRC events before Dr. Richard A. Meserve is sworn in as Chairman of the NRC.

No matter who serves as the Campaign Chairman at the NRC, that individual has three indispensable sources of support to help conduct the annual CFC drive. The first is Paul Bird and his staff, who devote year-round attention to CFC issues. The Office of Human Resources represents that continuing behind-the-scenes support that enables us to conduct an efficient, timely, and ultimately successful campaign year after year.

Second, this year, as in years past, we are able to draw upon resources outside the NRC to help us conduct the Campaign. This morning, we are fortunate to have with us Mr. Jack Kress, our CFC

Loaned Executive from the Department of Health and Human Services, and Patricia G. Shannon, representing the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. I want to welcome Jack and Patricia and extend to them my sincere appreciation for their willingness to help us conduct today's Kickoff. Mr. Kress will also be available throughout the Campaign to help us meet our goals. I also want to express my appreciation to Lisa Shea, representing the National Treasury Employees Union, and the children of our Day-Care Center for their participation in today's program.

The third essential source of support is the network of coordinators - they represent the interactive part of the Campaign and serve as the link between the Campaign itself and each of you. The role of CFC coordinator is not an easy one, and I want those of you who are serving in this capacity this year to know that your efforts are appreciated.

With this multiple level of strong support, the NRC over the years has established an enviable record of successful campaigns. Last year was no exception, and I take great pleasure in telling you that last year we succeeded in raising over \$302,000, or about \$12,000 over our target. This is an extraordinary achievement when we take into account that the agency was also running concurrently an extensive early out and buyout program with attendant reductions in personnel strength. In a few moments, Mr. Travers and I will be presenting a series of awards in recognition of the performance of individual NRC offices in last year's campaign, and I am pleased to note that in nearly every case, the individual accepting the award for each office is the CFC coordinator who devoted considerable time and effort to achieve the final result.

Before we do that, however, I want to take a moment or two to put the Campaign in a different context. In keeping with our inheritance from the Renaissance and the rapid growth of science and technology in our own time, we are increasingly inclined to determine value and worth by the extent to which the phenomena in question can be measured, dissected, compounded (with interest), or reduced to a precise monetary value. As Lord Kelvin so aptly phrased it in 1891, "I often say that when you can measure what you are speaking about and express it in numbers, you know something about it; but when you cannot measure it, when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meager and unsatisfactory kind." This elevation of the quantitative over the qualitative is, to a significant extent, the hallmark of our age, and, although it has led to great advances for society, it has also blurred our ability to see value in the things that are meaningful to us in the everyday sense of the term.

The Combined Federal Campaign speaks to us in a different language from that described by Lord Kelvin - it speaks to us in the language of qualitative value, belief, and compassion. It is, in other words, something that must be felt, not measured. What is the value of a human life? What magic draws us to the natural places of

the continent whenever we need to escape from the pressures of events? What makes us smile in response to the laughter of the children at play in our Day-Care Center? What is the bond that exists between us and the animals that share our homes and enables us to communicate with them? Throughout the entire history of human endeavor, including our most prolific periods of advancement in the sciences, we have never succeeded in answering these questions quantitatively, and we probably never will. Yet we know that these things have value, immense value, even if we cannot measure them. Although we may be inclined to take them for granted on a daily basis, we intuitively know their value once they are irretrievably lost. This, in essence, is the language of the Combined Federal Campaign.

The Campaign also speaks to us in the language of preservation - not preservation for preservation's sake and not simply acreage set aside, one more species saved, another disease cured, or even another life maintained for an indefinite period, but something much broader than that. It reminds us, much in the Native American sense, that we are the stewards of our environment, that our actions or inactions have consequences in the world outside, and that we live our lives not as isolated actors on a personal stage, but rather as part of a holistic universe composed of many other actors, both animate and inanimate. Because our research and calculations to date have not succeeded in providing any adequate guidance regarding the establishment of an appropriate balance between the rights we have as individual actors and the responsibilities we inherit as part of our membership in the broader cosmos, we are in danger of passing on to our children a severely degraded universe, one of far less value than the one we inherited. This is, as well, the province of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Finally, the Campaign speaks to us in the language of community -- not simply the community of neighborhood, county, state, or even nation, but in a broader sense of the term that links us with every other human being and with the natural world of which we are a part. This linkage establishes reciprocal relationships and responsibilities among the members of this broadly-defined community. The Campaign therefore reminds us that we --you and I -- as members of this broad community are also the court of last resort in addressing the issues covered by the CFC because there is, literally, nowhere else to turn for the support needed to carry out the objectives embodied in the Campaign. If we misunderstand this particular language of the CFC or assign it no value in our scale of worth, then the community-at-large may suffer the same fate that the noted educator and former President of the University of Chicago, Robert Maynard Hutchins, foresaw for democracy itself: "The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush," he said. "It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment."

These, then, are the multiple languages of the Combined Federal Campaign, and all are spoken in the qualitative sense. If you are inclined to ask yourself -- "What's in the CFC for me?"-- you are

asking the wrong question and speaking the wrong language, for in the end, we are in it for each other. I hope as you look through the CFC brochure this year, you will see and hear among the 2500 choices the many qualitative messages contained in it and that one or more of them will resonate with you. If that should happen to you, I also hope that you will find a way to join me, my Commission colleagues, and your friends in the NRC staff in supporting the 1999-2000 Combined Federal Campaign. Thank you.