

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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“To Whom Much Has Been Given ...”

By

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

1998 Combined Federal Campaign Kick-Off
Commission Conference Room (OWFN)

October 8, 1998, 9:00 a.m.

Good morning, everyone. I and my Commission colleagues are pleased to join you this morning as we “kick off” the 1998 Combined Federal Campaign. I would like to begin by acknowledging several individuals who have made possible our program today, who have helped to get this campaign off the ground, or who have agreed to coordinate NRC efforts as we go forward. First, I would like to welcome Mr. Dan Sobel, our CFC “Loaned Executive for this year, who comes to us from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). You will be meeting Mr. Sobel later in the program, and he will be on hand throughout our CFC campaign, serving as a liaison between the NRC and CFC Headquarters.

Also joining us today are Mr. Dale Yielding, representing the National Treasury Employees Union; the NRC Chorus; and our guest speaker, Mr. Paul Dahm, representing the Make-a-Wish Foundation. I want to thank each of you for agreeing to help conduct this kick-off program. Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Paul Bird and his staff in the NRC Office of Human Resources—and in particular Mr. Henry Rubin—who will be coordinating the NRC CFC campaign this year. Without all of you this effort would not be possible.

This will be my fourth year of being associated with the Combined Federal Campaign, and I must tell you that every year I continue to be impressed and gratified at the generosity and level of support exhibited by NRC employees. Last year we raised just over \$300,000 in CFC contributions, well over our goal of \$285,000. This degree of unselfishness and willingness to contribute does not happen by accident: special congratulations go to the CFC key-workers in each office, who work throughout

the campaign to achieve these goals. Later in the program, Mr. Callan and I will present several awards recognizing certain NRC offices whose performance last year was exceptional. But perhaps the most well-deserved thanks goes simply to individuals, the actual contributors, who voluntarily and generously devote a portion of their hard-earned salaries to support one or more causes in which they believe.

This year, despite continued reductions in our number of full-time employees, we have set an NRC goal of \$295,000. This target will require a great deal of effort, but I am confident, based on the performance I have seen in previous years, that we have what it takes to succeed.

I would like to discuss briefly with you the more serious and personal side of this campaign. I have entitled my presentation today, "To Whom Much Is Given"—referring to the Biblical passage that reads, "To whom much is given, much will be required." I have said repeatedly that, for those of us who attain a measure of success—whether that success be in the form of career achievement, financial standing, or public recognition—that with that success comes the responsibility to help others—others who are working on their own success pathway, others less fortunate than ourselves, or causes that at some earlier point gave us a helping hand.

I would like to pass along that idea to all of you, as a meditation and as a challenge: "To whom much is given, much will be required." Each of you, in your own way, has attained a measure of success that is remarkable by global standards. To each of us in this room, much has been given. Our societal focus frequently revolves around getting the best bargain, making sound investments for our personal futures and those of our families, and piling up a string of individual achievements. I am not here to tell you that any of those objectives are unworthy or misdirected—but I do wish to reaffirm that life has other dimensions, other secrets to fulfillment. An occasion like this CFC campaign is an opportunity for each of us to step outside the comfort zone of our homes, the office, and the daily commute. It is a chance to pause, to reflect on other spheres of value, other dimensions of our lives and the lives of those around us that merit our attention, concern, and support. We each could ask ourselves: How did I get to this level of success? Who were the individuals and organizations that gave me a helping hand? Who can I help? How can I pass along the benefits of being a person "to whom much has been given"?

Each of us must answer these questions in his or her own way. Some of you will find fulfillment in supporting less privileged individuals—the hungry, the homeless, or the sick. Others will focus on a particular cause—the rewards of reclaiming the environment or protecting a nature reserve. You may want to designate a personal contribution toward finding cures for a specific disease, toward boosting children in need of day care, toward supporting a struggling artistic venture, or toward helping young people pursue careers in science and technology. The beauty of the CFC campaign is that contributions are voluntary, and that, as a contributor, you can freely tailor your donation to match your specific range of interests and concerns. The CFC catalog this

year provides over 2500 choices—2500 ways to extend your generosity and benefits beyond the familiar arenas of daily living.

Making a CFC contribution is an opportunity to deliberate over what really matters to you—a way of defining your own values. If you choose carefully, it also is an investment—a way to shape the future in a manner that aligns with your personal values and those of other contributors. And, in the broadest view, the CFC is a sort of catch-all community insurance policy, a way of ensuring that, when a call for help goes out from any number of sources in the Washington Metropolitan area, someone is there to listen and to act at the moment of need.

I hope that each of you will find a way to join me, my fellow Commissioners, and your colleagues in the NRC staff and other government agencies in supporting the 1998 Combined Federal Campaign. Thank you.