"The Children’s Charter" recognizing the rights of children

4/7/1931
Collection HH-GOODR: James P. Goodrich Papers
National Archives Identifier: 187089

The Children’s Charter was adopted as a set of national goals by the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection in 1930. The Conference had prepared 31 volumes of technical findings and recommendations covering every conceivable childhood concern from prenatal care and a safe environment during childhood to expanded educational opportunities and the promise of health care for the physically and mentally handicapped. Realizing that the public would have a hard time understanding such detailed recommendations, President Hoover urged the preparation of the Children’s Charter to summarize the Conference’s more important recommendations and to solicit public support for state and local efforts to make the recommendations a reality. (Follow-up conferences were held in most states and medium and large-sized cities.) To read the Children’s Charter is to realize how much has been accomplished as a result — and to re-dedicate ourselves to fulfill its pledge in our time.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1931.

Children are our most precious possession.

The Children's Charter was written by 3,500
experienced men and women, after many months of
study. It condenses into few words the fullest
knowledge and the best plans for making every
child healthier, safer, wiser, better and happier.
These plans must be constantly translated into action.

Fathers and mothers, doctors and teachers, the
churches and the lay organizations, the officers
of government in the states and counties and towns,
al have one common obligation - to advance these
plans of better life for the children. I urge
upon you an even larger interest in it.

[Signature]

“The Children’s Charter” recognizing the rights of
children (page 2)
“The Children’s Charter” recognizing the rights of children (page 3)
“The Children’s Charter” recognizing the rights of children (page 4)
"The Children’s Charter" recognizing the rights of children (page 5)
"The Children’s Charter" recognizing the rights of children (page 6)
“The Children’s Charter” recognizing the rights of children (page 7)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraph</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Environment</td>
<td>This implies an expansion of programs already begun in several areas and an extension of those programs to places where they do not yet exist, providing for early discovery, diagnosis, treatment, hospital and institutional care where needed. For broad extension of education for those children other than normal, with special instruction, special classes, special schools, and separate vocational training and guidance, legislation to provide public funds for such services when not otherwise subsidized and volunteers of the public to the possibilities of the child's capes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Family</td>
<td>This implies the right of the child, historically shown as well as grown and human treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Home</td>
<td>This implies a study of those problems which produce delinquency examination into and revision of the juvenile court and probation systems, and a unified front on the part of the home, the school, the church, and lay organizations concerned with youth, to combat the causes of delinquency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Child</td>
<td>This implies the right of every child to protection against dependency which can only come with a decent family home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Parent</td>
<td>This implies a society conscious of its responsibility to safeguard children through economic protection of their parents and export study of the cause of unemployment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Child to Protection from Labor</td>
<td>This implies strong educational laws, machinery to regulate the conditions under which youth works, and strengthening of the whole vocational program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Child to Health Protection and Social Advantages</td>
<td>This implies public health, better schools and nurses, and better trained and better-paid teachers; attention of public health and recreation; provisions of libraries, clubs, and other cultural and social influences to rural areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right of the Child to the Right to Special Instruction</td>
<td>Imply the stimulation of those organizations and groups which have sprung up to accomplish these ends; in the widening of minds and in providing for people's liberties.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“The Children’s Charter” recognizing the rights of children (page 8)