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22 March 1988

JUDGE:

You will be introducing Mr. Richard Pimentel, the keynote speaker for the Agency's "Adaptive Technology Awareness Day" on March 29 at 9:00 am in the Headquarters Auditorium. This program will be followed by a luncheon for special guests from the Interagency Committee for Computer Support of Handicapped Employees and key officers in the Agency involved with the employment of and provision for the handicapped.

I have attached your proposed introductory remarks as well as background information on the Agency's Handicap Program -- its guidelines, goals, and the current status of handicapped employees within the Agency. This information, provided by EEO, may prove useful to you.

Bill Baker

Attachments:
As stated

DCI/PAO [redacted]

Distribution:

Orig - DCI

- 1 - D/PAO [redacted]
- 1 - [redacted]
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UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED FROM ATTACHMENTS

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SECRET

GOOD MORNING

I WANT TO WELCOME YOU TODAY TO A PROGRAM THAT PRESENTS SOME VERY IMPORTANT USES OF ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY -- TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN ASSIST THOSE OF US WHO FACE SPECIAL PHYSICAL CHALLENGES. I WELCOME OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, MR. RICHARD PIMENTEL, WHO WILL DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT ISSUES CONCERNING THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED. AND I WELCOME OUR GUESTS FROM THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR COMPUTER SUPPORT OF HANDICAPPED EMPLOYEES.

AS PART OF THE PROGRAM FOR ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY, THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL AND THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HAVE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO SEE SOME OF THE ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, PRODUCTS FOR THE VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED, AND PRODUCTS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS WILL BE EXHIBITED IN THE ONE-J CORRIDOR.

I THINK YOU WILL FIND THESE EXHIBITS INTERESTING. I FIND IT ENCOURAGING THAT THE RAPID CHANGE IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY HAS

PRODUCED SUCH UNEXPECTED BENEFITS IN COMPUTER ADAPTIVE AIDS. MANY OF THE DEVICES AVAILABLE TODAY WERE NOT ORIGINALLY INTENDED AS AIDS FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS A VOICE RECOGNITION SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY NASA IN THE MID-1970'S FOR THE SPACE PROGRAM. THE SYSTEM NASA DEVELOPED PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL ALLOW SOMEONE WITH LIMITED HAND MOBILITY TO GAIN ACCESS TO A COMPUTER SYSTEM BY COMMUNICATING THROUGH SPEECH.

SUCH TECHNOLOGY CAN DO A LOT TO CHANGE OUR PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS CAN ACCOMPLISH IN THE WORKPLACE. CHANGING OUR PERCEPTIONS SO THAT WE SEE EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR THOSE WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS RATHER THAN EMPLOYMENT LIMITATIONS IS SOMETHING OUR GUEST SPEAKER, MR. PIMENTEL, WILL ADDRESS TODAY.

MR. RICHARD PIMENTEL IS A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TRAINER WHO SPECIALIZES IN MOTIVATING STAFF AND IN ELIMINATING "ATTITUDE" BARRIERS IN THE HIRING PROCESS. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE

PORTLAND PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL, AND HAS HAD TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A JOB DEVELOPER AND ADMINISTRATOR FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE REHABILITATION FIRMS. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THAT HAS BEEN MARKETED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE HAS, IN FACT, TRAINED OVER 5,000 PEOPLE TO DELIVER THIS PROGRAM TO MAJOR CORPORATIONS AND TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

MR. PIMENTEL, WE ARE GLAD YOU COULD BE HERE TODAY. PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, MR. RICHARD PIMENTEL.