#### PRESENTED TO:

NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

**REMARKS BY:** 

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OAK BROOK HILLS HOTEL OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS 7/19/89

#### THANK YOU

BEFORE TALKING ABOUT TEACHING ISSUES, LET ME

SPEND SOME TIME ON THE MULTI-FRONT WAR WE

ARE ALL ENGAGED IN, I SEE THIS EFFORT TO

OVERHAUL OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM AND RELATED

SYSTEMS AS JUST THAT -- A WAR, A CRUSADE IN

WHICH OUR SOCIETY WILL BE DESTROYED IF WE LOSE.

DRAMATIC BUT TRUE!

LET ME RUN DOWN A

LIST OF THOSE FRONTS WHERE ACTION OF SOME SORT IS GOING ON,

LET'S START WITH TEACHING ITSELF - YOUR AREA

- 1, TEACHING STANDARDS
- 2. TEACHER COMPENSATION
- 3, REFORM OF TEACHER EDUCATION
- 4. TEACHER WORKING CONDITIONS

MOVE TO THOSE THINGS THAT INVOLVE TEACHERS

- 5, SCHOOL-BASED MANAGEMENT,
- 6. CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT INCLUDING MAJOR REFORMS IN MATH AND SCIENCE,
- 7, RESTRUCTURING OF SCHOOL SYSTEM MANAGEMENT,
- 8. PROGRAMS TO DEAL WITH TEENAGE
  PREGNANCY, ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND VIOLENCE.

AND LESS DIRECTLY, BUT

VERY IMPORTANT

- 9. MENTORING
- 10, PARENT EDUCATION
- 11. SCHOOL-BOARD STRENGTHENING

AND FINALLY THOSE THINGS NECESSARY TO MAKE
CERTAIN CHILDREN ENTERING KINGERGARTEN HAVE AT

LEAST HALF A CHANCE OF COMPLETING THEIR EDUCATION THRU 12TH GRADE.

- 12. PRENATAL CARE
- 13. W.I.C.
- 14. CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM
- 15, HEADSTART

AND WE COULD ADD MANY MORE ITEMS TO THIS LIST OF 15.

NOW I SHOULD WARN YOU THAT SINCE MY FOCUS
IN EDUCATION THE LAST 10 YEARS HAS BEEN ON URBAN
CHILDREN AT RISK, I HAVE AN APOCALYPTIC VISION
OF THE FUTURE.

AS I LOOK AT THIS PARTIAL LIST OF 15 ITEMS,
I WOULD GUESS THAT PROGRESS MUST BE MADE ON AT
LEAST HALF OF THEM IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS OR WE
WILL NOT MAKE ANY MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON OUR KEY
OBJECTIVE WHICH IS TO PRODUCE EDUCATED YOUNG
ADULTS FROM OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM WHO CAN
PLAY A MEANINGFUL ROLE IN OUR ECONOMY AND OUR
SOCIETY, THE CORRELARY - IF DOES NOT HAPPEN WE
WILL NO LONGER BE IN FRONT RANK OF DEVELOPED
NATIONS.

DISTURBING FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL CHILDREN "AT RISK" HAVE BEEN MARSHALLED TIME AND AGAIN,
HERE IS "A DAY IN THE LIVES OF AMERICAN
CHILDREN," PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE
FUND:

- 1,868 TEENS DROP OUT OF SCHOOL
  988 AMERICAN CHILDREN ARE ABUSED
- 2,989 CHILDREN SEE THEIR PARENTS DIVORCED
- 1,099 TEENAGERS HAVE ABORTIONS
- 1,287 TEENAGERS GIVE BIRTH
  - 110 BABIES DIE BEFORE THEIR 1ST BIRTHDAY
  - 27 CHILDREN DIE BECAUSE OF POVERTY
    - 5 SCHOOL-AGE YOUTHS ARE MURDERED
    - 5 TEENS COMMIT SUICIDE

THE FACTS ARE NOT NEW BUT OUR INCREASING

RECOGNITION IS NEW, WE ARE BEGINNING TO

ARRIVE AT A MORE REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE

PROBLEMS FACED BY LARGE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN,

WE ARE PUTTING ASIDE THE TRADITIONAL

COMPARIMENTALIZED VIEW THAT LOOKS AT EDUCATION

AS ONE PROBLEM, HEALTH AS ANOTHER, FAMILY INCOME

AS A THIRD,

THE C,E,D,

"CHILDREN IN NEED" REPORT 1987 WAS THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE EXPLICITLY THAT EARLY

AND SUBSTAINED INTERVENTION IN THE LIVES OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IS IMPERATIVE IF THESE CHILDREN ARE TO BE EDUCATED, CHILDREN ARE DIS-

ADVANTAGED IF THEY CANNOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, GENERALLY
BECAUSE OF MENTAL, PHYSICAL OR CULTURAL

IMPAIRMENTS OR IF THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEM ARE INHERENTLY UNEQUAL,

CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES SHOW THAT A SHOCKING 30% OF OUR SCHOOL POPULATION ARE DISADVANTAGED WITH URBAN CENTERS RUNNING AT 50% OR HIGHER.

THE REPORT STRESSES THAT POVERTY CORRELATES

CLOSELY WITH SCHOOL FAILURE, ESPECIALLY WHERE

FAMILY STRUCTURE HAS BROKEN DOWN AS WELL, POOR

STUDENIS ARE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BECOME

DROPOUTS THAN STUDENTS FROM ECONOMICALLY
ADVANTAGED HOVES, THIS IS HARDLY SURPRISING:
CHILDREN OF THE POOR SUFFER MORE FREQUENTLY

FROM ALMOST EVERY FORM

OFCHILDHOOD DEFICIENCY, INCLUDING INFANT
MORTALITY, GROSS MALNUTRITION, RECURRENT AND
UNTREATED HEALTH PROBLEMS, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
PHYSICAL STRESS, CHILD ABUSE, AND LEARNING
DISABILITIES,

AND NOW FOR A FEW STATISTICS, WHICH I
CERTAINLY DO NOT EXPECT YOU TOREMEMBER, TOGIVE
YOUANOVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE MAGNITUDE OF
THE PROBLEM.

AS A GROUP, CHILDREN ARE NOW THE POOREST SEGMENT OF THE NATION'S POPULATION, THEY ARE

OVER SIXTY-FIVE. OMER 20% OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER 18 CURRENTLY LIVE IN FAMILIES WHOSE INCOMES FALL BELOW THE POVERTY LINE, AND 25% OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER 6 ARE NOW LIVING IN POVERTY, ALMOST TWO-

THIRDS OF ALL POOR CHILDREN ARE WHITE, BUT
BLACKS AND HISPANICS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE POOR:
43% OF BLACK AND 40% & HISPANIC CHILDREN LIVE

IN POMERTY, BLACK CHILDREN ARE NEARLY THREE
TIMES AS LIKELY TO LIVE IN POMERTY AS WHITE
CHILDREN.

THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN EPIDEMIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE, ONE HALF OF THESE TO TEENAGE MOTHERS WHO TEND TO HAVE PREMATURE BIRTHS BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE NUTRITION AND MEDICAL CARE, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT IS THE SINGLE BEST PREDICTOR OF WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN DURING THE EDUCATION PROCESS, WEIGHT BELOW 5 LBS. COMBINED WITH INADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE HAS A TERRIBLE IMPACT, TODAY BETWEEN 20 AND 25% OF OUR ANNUAL BIRTHS ARE ALMOST ASSURED OF BEING EDUCATIONALLY RETARDED OR DIFFICULT TO TEACH AS THEY GO THROUGH OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

HOW DOES THIS TRANSLATE, LETS TAKE A NATIONAL PROFILE OF THE CLASS OF 2001 WHICH STARTED KINDERGARTEN LAST FALL,

25% LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE

15% HAVE MENTAL OR PHYSICAL HANDICAPS

14% BORN TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

14% BORN TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS

DISASTER IS ALMOST GUARANTEED IF KIDS FALL INTO

SEVERAL CATEGORIES,

WE ARE BEGINNING TO ADOPT A MORE

COMPREHENSIVE VIEW THAT TAKES INIO ACCOUNT THE

WAYS EDUCATION, HEALTH, NUIRITION, HOUSING,

FAMILY INCOME, SOCIAL SUPPORTS AND EVEN

POLITICAL DECISIONS ALL INTERACT TO FORM THE

ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE AND THE

OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM,

THESE ARE IMPORTANT SIGNS OF PROGRESS, BUT IF

OUR CUILOOK HAS CHANCED, THE OBSTACLES BEFORE US

HAVE NOT CHANCED.

#### ONE OF THEM IS OUR OWN HISTORY,

WHEN IT COMES TO DEVELOPING RHEICRIC ABOUT
CHILDREN, I DOUBT WE HAVE AN EQUAL IN THE WORLD,
EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF PERIOD IN THE SIXTIES WHEN WE
DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED A RANCE OF PROGRAMS
AIMED AT PROVIDING ALL CHILDREN WITH A

RELATIVELY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN LIFE, OUR RECENT
PERFORMANCE HAS NOT COME CLOSE TO OUR RHEICRIC,

TAKE INFANT MORTALITY AND CHILD HEALTH,

EVERYONE AGREES THAT CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE EARLY HEALTH CARE FARE BETTER IN LIFE THAN CHILDREN WHO DO NOT: FOR 60 YEARS WE HAVE KNOWN THAT QUALITY PRENATAL CARE CAN REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AND ELIMINATE MANY OF THE PROBLEMS THAT LEAD TO HIGH-RISK BIRTHS AND SUBSEQUENT POOR HEALTH AMONG INFANTS, AS WELL AS PROBLEMS IN LATER LIFE THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH POOR CHILD HEALTH, YET THE UNITED STATES CURRENTLY RANKS 19TH AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN INFANT MORTALITY, AND 15 MILLION WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE HAVE NO PRIVATE OR GOVERN-MENT HEALTH INSURANCE THAT COVERS MATERNITY CARE.

IN ADDITION, WE MAKE THE HEAD-START PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF THE CHILDREN WHO NEED IT, IN SPITE OF FACT IT IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL PROGRAM OF LAST QUARTER OF CENTURY, WE KNOW THAT WHEN HEAD-START KIDS GROW UP THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO FIND JOBS, FORM STABLE FAMILIES, LESS APT TO BE ON WELFARE, LESS TROUBLE WITH LAW, WE PLACE SHARP RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND DRAMATICALLY LIMIT THE CHAPTER 1 ASSISTANCE WE PROVIDE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN DISADVANIAGED SCHOOL DISTRICTS,

IF THESE AND OTHER TRENDS CONTINUE, THEN BY THE YEAR 2000, WHICH NOW IS JUST 11 YEARS AWAY, ONE OF EVERY FOUR YOUNGSTERS IN THIS COUNTRY WILL BE POOR, ONE IN FIVE WILL BE AT RISK OF BECOMING A TEENAGE PARENT, AND ONE IN 4 WILL BECOME A DROPOUT, MOST LIKELY BEFORE JUNIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL,

THAT'S THE HISTORY WE HAVE TO OVERCOME.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE MOMENT SEEMS RIGHT FOR SOME INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE EARLY LIVES OF CHILLDREN, TO PUT INTO PLACE, ON A MORE EXTENSIVE SCALE THAN CURRENTLY EXISTS, PROGRAMS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE ODDS THAT CHILDREN WHO ARE DISADVANTAGED TODAY WILL HAVE A BETTER FUTURE TOMORROW,

IS OUR KNOWLEDGE COMPLETE AND EXACT? OF COURSE NOT, BUT WE DO KNOW ENOUGH TO SAVE 50%+ OF DISADVANTAGED KIDS.

I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON THIS BECAUSE WE
ARE DISCUSSING THE QUALITY OF THE CHILDREN
ENTERING OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM WHICH TEACHERS AND

ADMINISTRATORS MUST SOMEHOW TRANSFORM INTO EDUCATED YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF

PLAYING A MEANINGFUL ROLE IN SOCIETY, MOST IMPORTANTLY, I THINK WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY IN THE U.S.

THE 2 TIERING OF OUR SOCIETY IS DESTROYING THE SHARED VISION OF OURSELVES TOWARD WHICH WE'VE BEEN STRIVING FOR 200 YEARS AND WHICH IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES, SOONER OR LATER WE WILL WIND UP IN 2 ARMED CAMPS, THE WORLD IS FULL OF TRAGIC EXAMPLES OF THIS —

MEXICO, PHILIPPINES, PUERTO RICO, VENEZUELA —
ALL PLACES WHERE THE HAVES LIVE IN COMPOUNDS
WITH WALLS, BARBED WIRE, BROKEN GLASS AND ARMED
GUARDS, TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE HAVE
NOTS, NONE OF US WANT OUR CIVILIZATION TO BE
DESTROYED IN THIS WAY,

AM I DISCOURAGED BY ALL OF THIS? THE ANSWER IS

NO! IF WE APPLY CONCENTRATED INTELLIGENCE AND

RESOURCES TO THE SOLUTION OF MAN-MADE PROBLEMS,

I BELIEVE THEY CAN BE SOLVED — NOT THRU SOME

ALL ENCOMPASSING THEORETICAL STRUCTURE SUCH AS

EINSTEIN'S UNIFTED FIELD THEORY — BUT THRU

IMPROVEMENTS AND SOLUTIONS FOCUSED ON INDIVIDUAL

PROBLEMS.

THE BEST EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE

CONCENTRATED INTELLIGENCE BEING BROUGHT BY THIS

GROUP NOT ONLY ON IMPROVING TEACHING STANDARDS

BUT ALSO ON IMPACTING WORK BEING DONE TO IMPROVE

WORKING CONDITIONS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS,

TEACHER EDUCATION AND TEACHER RECRUITMENT,

VICTORY ON ALL OF THESE FRONTS IS ABSOLUTELY

ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE GOING TO EDUCATE OUR

CHILDREN WELL,

THIS IS PROBABLY THE EASIEST OF ALL THE REFORM MOVEMENTS UNDERWAY FOR THE BUSINESS COMUNITY TO UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT. IT NOT ONLY FITS THE AMERICAN FOLKLORE ABOUT TEACHERS BUT MATCHES OUR OWN EXPERIENCE, ITS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE IN MY GENERATION TO FIND SOMEONE WHO HAS NOT HAD A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE WITH A GREAT TEACHER. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR SOME PEOPLE TO MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN POVERTY, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HANDICAPS AND RESULTING LACK OF EDUCATION, NO ONE HAS ANY TROUBLE IN CONNECTING GOOD TEACHING AND GOOD EDUCATION.

IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THE TYPICAL BUSINESS
CAN BE VIEWED AS A CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF

EDUCATION, I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT THE DIRECT EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS WHETHER THEY BE REMEDIAL FOR INCOMING EMPLOYEES OR TRADE AND PROCESS TRAINING PROGRAMS OR UNIVERSITY TYPES

SUCH AS GENERAL ELECTRIC AND OTHER LARGE
CORPORATIONS HAVE, I AM TALKING ABOUT THE
NORMAL PROGRESSION UP THE PROMOTION LADDER

WHICH IS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO GOING FROM ONE

CRADE LEVEL TO ANOTHER, CREAT MANAGERS ARE ALSO

CREAT TEACHERS, SO IF I COULD TALK ABOUT THE

"BUSINESS COMMINITY" WHICH IT REALLY ISN'T,

I WOULD SAY YOU HAVE ITS SUPPORT, DOES THIS

MEAN MASSIVE FUNDING WILL COME FROM BUSINESS

WITH THE WAVE OF AN ARM, ABSOLUTELY NOT! DAVID

KEARNS, BRAD BUILER AND I HAVE SPENT TOO LONG

RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL

INITIATIVES NOT TO RECOGNIZE HOW DIFFICULT ITS.

NOW A FEW WORDS ABOUT RISK TAKING, LIKE

ALL WARS, THIS ONE INVOLVES RISKS, ONE OF THE

LARGEST OF THESE IS THAT THE WINDOW OF

OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE MAY CLOSE BEFORE WE MAKE

THENEEDED CHANGES, WE SHOULD ALL FOCUS ON NEED

FOR ACTION,

BECAUSE OF THIS RISK AND THE NEED FOR

SPEEDY ACTION, WE CANNOT DO THINGS IN A NEAT,

SYSTEMATIC LINEAR WAY, FOR EXAMPLE, WE CANNOT

WAIT UNTIL TEACHING STANDARDS ARE SET BEFORE WE

RAISE COMPENSATION; WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL OUR

SYSTEM HAS ALL FIRST CLASS TEACHERS AND

ADMINISTRATORS BEFORE WE DISMEMBER CENTRAL

EDUCATIONAL BUREAUCRACIES AND CREATE

SCHOOL-BASED MANAGEMENT; WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL

ALL THE SIGNS ARE RIGHT BEFORE WE MAKE

INSTRUCTIONAL AND CURRICULA CHANCES.

AN OVERWHEIMING REASON FOR THIS URGENCY IS
THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF PARTIALLY EDUCATED YOUNG
PEOPLE THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS SPEWING OUT. UNDER
AN OPTIMISTIC SCENARIO, IT WILL TAKE 10 TO 15
YEARS BEFORE WE SEE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN
OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, BY THAT TIME WE WILL HAVE
AT LEAST 40 YEARS OF UNDER-EDUCATED ADULTS IN
THE U.S. AND THE IS A SUBJECT THE EDUCATION

#### REFORM DIALOGUE HASN'T EVEN TOUCHED!

OF COURSE, THE TIME PRESSURES ON YOU ARE ALSO GREAT, WITH 50% OF OUR TEACHERS RETURING IN NEXT FEW YEARS WE ARE PRESENTED WITH A ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME OPPORTUNITY TO ENORMOUSLY UP GRADE OUR ENTIRE TEACHING CADRE, WE MUST ATTRACT AND RETAIN HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

YOU HAVE MADE A BRILLIANT BEGINNING WITH

CHAPTER 2

WHAT TEACHERS SHOULD KNOW AND BE

ABLE TO DO IN YOUR PUBLICATION ON INITIAL

POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES, THIS WILL PROVIDE A

FRAMEWORK ON WHICH MOST OF EDUCATION REFORM CAN

BE ATTACHED, THE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL

TEACHING STANDARDS IS THE ONLY FOCUSED NATIONAL

EFFORT ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE

ASPECTS OF EDUCATION REFORM.

THERE IS PLENTY COING ON BUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES IN THE HEALTH AND POWERLY AREAS IT IS LARGELY FOCUSED ON STATE AND LOCAL PROBLEMS, THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE, ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF OUR SYSTEM IS THE DIVERSITY COMING FROM ITS STATE AND LOCAL BASIS, NO ONE WANTS DOMINATION BY ONE WOICE - THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,

BUT THE FRAGMENTATION CAN BE FRUSTRATING WHEN TRYING TO PRESS A NATIONAL AGENDA, THIS BOARD AND ITS NATIONAL EVALUATION PROCESS STRESSING

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD TEACHING WILL BE A BEACON FOR MANY LOCAL PROGRAMS.

YOUR 5 CORE PROPOSITIONS CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF WHAT BEING A TEACHER SHOULD MEAN, IT IS ONLY ON READING THE GLOSSES IN THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS THAT ONE GETS AN INKLING OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF PRODUCING EQUITABLE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS, AS A MATTER OF FACT THE TASK IS MIND BOGGLING COMPARED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CPA STANDARDS OR LICENSING TESTS FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OR EVEN MEDICAL SPECIALTIES,

NONE OF THESE STANDARDS ATTEMPT TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOCTOR AND PATIENTS AND YET THAT RELATIONSHIP IS THE KEY TO GOOD TEACHING, THIS IS A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN, WE CANNOT LET COMPLEXITIES SLOW DOWN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS, I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT YOUR REGULAR REVIEW PROCESS WILL TAKE SOME OF THE HEAT OFF THE DRIVE FOR ABSOLUTE PERFECTION IN YOUR FIRST FORMULATION, YOU CANNOT AFFORD FOR ANY REASON TO FALL BEHEND YOUR TARGET DATE OF 1993 FOR INTRODUCTION OF CERTIFICATION WHICH IS ALREADY DANGEROUSLY DISTANT.

I HAVE THIS CONSTANT SENSE OF A CLOCK
TICKING INEXORABLY AND TIME RUNNING OUT, THIS
IS A WAR WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE ON THIS FRONT
OR ANY OTHER, THE PROBLEMS AND THE SOLUTIONS
HAVE A TERRIBLE URGENCY, I AM USING MILITARY
TERMINOLOGY SIMPLY BECAUSE OUR COUNTRY SEEMS
TO REACT ONLY TO PHYSICAL THREATS AND NEVER
TO SOCIETAL THREATS.

LET ME CLOSE WITH A FEW WORDS BY CHILEAN

POET, GABRIELA MISTRAL WHO WON THE NOBEL

PRIZE FOR LITERATURE IN 1945, I HOPE THAT

HER WORDS CAN SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR OUR

EFFORTS, HERE IS WHAT SHE WROTE:

"MANY THINGS WE NEED CAN WAIT,

THE CHILD CANNOT,

NOW IS THE TIME HIS BONES ARE

BEING FORMED,

HIS BLOOD IS BEING MADE,

HIS MIND IS BEING DEVELOPED,

TO HIM WE CANNOT SAY, 'TOMORROW,'

HIS NAME IS TODAY."

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.