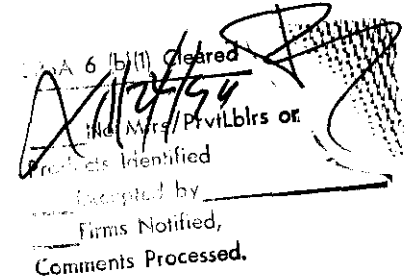


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New Hampshire Injury Prevention Conference
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CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

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THANK YOU.

I BRING GREETINGS FROM CHAIRMAN ANN
BROWN. SHE IS SO SORRY THAT SHE COULD NOT BE
HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE THAT SHE HAS
DEVOTED HER LIFE TO: HOW TO KEEP AMERICAN
FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY CHILDREN, SAFE FROM
UNNECESSARY DEATH AND INJURY. I AM DELIGHTED,
HOWEVER, THAT I WAS ABLE TO STAND IN FOR HER TO
GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IDEAS WITH OUR
HEALTH AND SAFETY PARTNERS HERE IN NEW
HAMPSHIRE .

IT IS FITTING THAT YOUR CONFERENCE IS TITLED
“MOVING SAFETY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY” BECAUSE THE
FIELD OF INJURY PREVENTION IS REALLY ABOUT
PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN, OR IN OTHER WORDS,
PROTECTING OUR FUTURE.

IT SEEMS A SIMPLE BIT OF LOGIC THAT WE TAKE CARE
OF THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US.

WE ARE ALL HERE BECAUSE WE WANT TO KEEP
FAMILIES AND KIDS FROM GETTING HURT.

NONE OF US HOPES TO BANISH THE BRUISES AND
SCRAPES THAT ARE CHILDREN'S BADGES OF HONOR.

BUT WE ARE HERE TO HELP PREVENT THE SERIOUS
INJURIES; TO KEEP KIDS ON THE PLAYGROUND AND OUT OF
EMERGENCY ROOMS.

I KNOW ABOUT GOVERNOR SHAHEEN'S CREATION OF
THE KIDS' CABINET – WHAT A TERRIFIC IDEA – AND HER
MANY OTHER INITIATIVES ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN.

AND I KNOW ABOUT THE GREAT COLLABORATIVE WORK THAT GOES ON ALL YEAR LONG IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE AND THE CONFERENCE ADVISORY GROUP.

WE AT THE CPSC ALSO SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO MAKE KIDS' LIVES BETTER.

ANN BROWN ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO SPEAK HERE TODAY BECAUSE IT IS AN HONOR TO TALK TO THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO FILL THIS ROOM. I AM HONORED TO BE HERE AS WELL.

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE REALLY CAN MAKE THIS WORLD A SAFER PLACE FOR OUR CHILDREN -- IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND ALL OVER AMERICA.

WHEN CHAIRMAN BROWN TOOK THE JOB AS CPSC CHAIRMAN OVER FIVE YEARS AGO, SHE WANTED A COMMISSION THAT WOULD PROTECT AMERICAN CONSUMERS.

AN ACTIVIST COMMISSION THAT WOULD CUT THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY AND ACT ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE.

A COMMISSION THAT COULD RESPOND QUICKLY TO PROBLEMS.

AND WIN RESPECT AS A PREVENTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY.

AND THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

TODAY, I WANT TO TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT CPSC'S WORK.

I'LL TELL YOU SOME OF THE THINGS WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED IN WASHINGTON, AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATES, INCLUDING NEW HAMPSHIRE.

AND I'LL TALK ABOUT SOME MORE THINGS THAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH US.

LET ME SET THINGS IN CONTEXT.

AT CPSC WE HAVE JURISDICTION OVER ABOUT
15,000 TYPES OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS .

MOST OF THEM ARE FINE.

BUT SOME ARE INVOLVED IN UP TO 29.5 MILLION
INJURIES A YEAR – AND AN AVERAGE EACH YEAR OF
22,000 DEATHS.

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL, INNOVATIVE FREE-
MARKET ECONOMY IN THIS COUNTRY.

BUT LET'S FACE IT.

SOME PRODUCTS INJURE PEOPLE.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE.

LAST YEAR CPSC WORKED WITH A REMARKABLE
12 YEAR OLD BOY FROM CHICAGO NAMED COLIN
BURNS.

HE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE SO EXCITED WHEN THE
CHICAGO BULLS WON THE NBA CHAMPIONSHIP.

THEY TRIED TO SET OFF SOME FIREWORKS.
ONE EXPLODED, AND COLIN LOST HIS LEFT EYE.
THERE'S SOMETHING SO TRAGIC ABOUT
FIREWORKS INJURIES.

WE USE FIREWORKS AT OUR MOST TRIUMPHANT
CELEBRATIONS -- LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY -- OR THE
UPCOMING MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS.

FIREWORKS INJURIES OVER THE LAST THREE
YEARS WERE LOWER THAN THEY HAD BEEN IN
PREVIOUS YEARS -- A DECREASE OF ABOUT ONE-THIRD
SINCE 1994.

BUT THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY -- 8,700
EMERGENCY-ROOM TREATED INJURIES LAST YEAR
ALONE.

CHILDREN LOSE HANDS AND FINGERS -- AND EYES.
AND SO, AT THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
COMMISSION, ONE OF THE THINGS WE DO IS ISSUE
WARNINGS.

THAT'S WHERE WE WORKED WITH COLIN -- HE AND HIS FAMILY CAME TO OUR FOURTH OF JULY PRESS CONFERENCE TO REMIND PEOPLE: LEAVE FIREWORKS TO THE PROFESSIONALS.

HE WAS WITH US TO HELP US WARN OTHERS -- TO PREVENT THEM FROM EXPERIENCING WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM. WHEN WE CAN PUT A HUMAN FACE ON TRAGEDY -- AS WE DID WITH THIS COURAGEOUS AND EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG MAN -- OUR SAFETY MESSAGE BECOMES SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN MERE STATISTICS COULD EVER SHOW.

AS THE CENTURY DRAWS TO A CLOSE, FIREWORKS SAFETY HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT NEW HAMPSHIRE HAS JOINED AS ONE OF CPSC'S STATE PARTNERS IN OUR MILLENNIUM INITIATIVE TO PREVENT FIREWORKS INJURIES.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR YOUR
SUPPORT OF THIS EFFORT.

OF COURSE AT CPSC WE DO MORE THAN WARN.
WE ISSUE MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS FOR
CONSUMER PRODUCTS, INCLUDING FIREWORKS.

LAST YEAR, WORKING WITH CUSTOMS, WE SEIZED
40 MILLION FIREWORKS THAT VIOLATE OUR SAFETY
STANDARDS -- THE KIND THAT CAN CAUSE INJURIES.

THAT'S TYPICAL OF THE WORK OF CPSC.

WE ALERT PEOPLE TO DANGER.

BUT WE TAKE CONCRETE, ENFORCEABLE ACTION,
TOO. AND NOT JUST ON FIREWORKS.

LAST YEAR CPSC RECALLED OVER 30 MILLION PRODUCTS.

WE HAD 3 SEPARATE RECALLS INVOLVING ABOUT 10 MILLION PRODUCTS EACH:

- POWER-WHEELS BATTERY-OPERATED RIDE-ON CARS.
- TOY BASKETBALL NETS
- AND PLAYPENS WITH PROTRUDING RIVETS.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, CPSC WAS ALERTED TO THE STRANGULATION HAZARD POSED BY THESE PLAYPENS WHEN A MEDICAL EXAMINER FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE REPORTED A TRAGIC INCIDENT TO US. AN INFANT WHO WAS WEARING A SWEATER HAD GOTTEN IT CAUGHT ON ONE OF THE RIVETS AND STRANGLED. THIS REPORT LED TO AN INVESTIGATION BY CPSC, WHICH ULTIMATELY RESULTED IN A NATIONWIDE RECALL OF MILLIONS OF PORTABLE CRIBS.

MORE AND MORE, CPSC IS FORGING PARTNERSHIPS WITH MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND OTHER HEALTH AND SAFETY PROFESSIONALS, LIKE ALL OF YOU, ACROSS THE COUNTRY. AS THIS EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATES, WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE LIVES.

RECALLS ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE DO.

TEN YEARS AGO, THE CPSC OBTAINED 136 RECALLS. UP UNTIL RECENTLY, THE NUMBER OF RECALLS HAD BEEN IN THE LOW 200'S.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS WE'VE DONE NEARLY 300 RECALLS EACH YEAR.

AND WE DO THE RECALLS DIFFERENTLY.

OUR PREDECESSORS USED TO USE WHAT ANN BROWN CALLS THE PAPER AIRPLANE APPROACH -- SAIL A LITTLE PRESS RELEASE OUT THE WINDOW HOPING SOMEONE PICKS IT UP DOWN BELOW.

SINCE CHAIRMAN BROWN CAME TO THE CPSC, WE ALERT THE PUBLIC TO OUR RECALLS IN QUITE A DIFFERENT FASHION, AND IT SURE HAS PRODUCED RESULTS. WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND WE AGRESSIVELY MARKET THE RECALLS WHEREVER WE CAN -- ON TV, RADIO, FEATURES IN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE LIVING IN THE COUNTRY WHO HAVE NOT BEEN EXPOSED TO STORIES ABOUT CPSC PRODUCT RECALLS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. AND THE MORE THAT PEOPLE HEAR ABOUT OUR RECALLS, THE MORE TRAGEDIES WE CAN PREVENT.

IN THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE RECEIVED A LOT OF RECOGNITION FOR THE CHANGES WE HAVE MADE AND THE THINGS WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED -- ESPECIALLY FOR RECALLS.

LAST YEAR WE WON THE (PRES-TEE-GIOUS)
PRESTIGIOUS INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT AWARD FOR OUR FAST-TRACK PRODUCT
RECALL PROGRAM THAT GETS DANGEROUS PRODUCTS
OUT OF THE MARKET MORE QUICKLY THAN EVER
BEFORE.

THE AWARD IS GIVEN BY THE FORD FOUNDATION,
IN COOPERATION WITH HARVARD'S KENNEDY SCHOOL
OF GOVERNMENT.

THE PURPOSE OF THE AWARD IS TO RECOGNIZE
GOOD GOVERNMENT.

IN YET ANOTHER KIND OF RECOGNITION FOR
CPSC'S WORK, THE HIGHLY-RESPECTED NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCE'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
ISSUED A REPORT ON REDUCING THE BURDEN OF
INJURY IN AMERICA.

A SIMILAR REPORT 10 YEARS AGO BARELY
MENTIONED CPSC.

AT THAT TIME THE AGENCY WAS NOT PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN HELPING TO REDUCE INJURY.

THIS YEAR, THE REPORT AUTHORS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO PRAISE CPSC'S WORK AND COMMEND THE AGENCY AS "A MODEL OF REGULATORY EFFICIENCY."

I TELL YOU ABOUT THIS RECOGNITION NOT JUST BECAUSE WE ARE PROUD OF IT – ALTHOUGH WE SURELY ARE.

OF COURSE, IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF OUR DEDICATED CPSC STAFF

(SOME OF WHOM ARE HERE WITH ME TODAY.)

BARBARA MCEACHERN, FROM OUR BOSTON OFFICE, WHO WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH MANY OF YOU HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE ON PRODUCT SAFETY INITIATIVES; AND

TERRI ROGERS, FROM OUR HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, DC, WHO IS OUR CHILDREN'S PRODUCT EXPERT AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF THE RECALLS THAT ARE HELPING TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE.

BUT BACK TO THE PUBLIC RECOGNITION: WE CARE ABOUT IT BECAUSE THIS KIND OF RECOGNITION HELPS US TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE AT DOING OUR JOB.

OUR NEW WAY OF DOING BUSINESS DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

AND WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO MAKE AN EVEN BIGGER DIFFERENCE.

ONE CHANGE WE HAVE MADE CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF THE KIND OF PERSON CHAIRMAN BROWN IS. SHE PUTS A HUMAN FACE ON THE STERILE IMAGE OF A GOVERNMENT REGULATOR.

SINCE COMING TO THE CPSC, THE CHAIRMAN HAS TELEPHONED PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE DIED FROM AN UNSAFE PRODUCT.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THESE CONVERSATIONS OFTEN TURN TO TEARS ON BOTH SIDES. THEY ARE DIFFICULT AND HEART-WRENCHING. BUT THEN, ANN ENLISTS THE PARENTS' HELP TO ENSURE THAT NO OTHER CHILD WILL DIE AS THEIR CHILD HAS DIED — THAT THEIR CHILD'S DEATH WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

AND SO SHE TELEPHONED A MICHIGAN WOMAN, THELMA SIBLEY, WHO SUFFERED THE WORST NIGHTMARE OF ANY PARENT.

HER ONLY CHILD, FIVE YEAR OLD NANCY, STRANGLER, WHEN THE DRAWSTRING OF HER JACKET WAS CAUGHT ON A PLAYGROUND SLIDE.

WHEN WE INVESTIGATED, WE LEARNED THAT THIS WASN'T THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT -- SINCE 1985 THERE HAD BEEN 20 DEATHS FROM DRAWSTRINGS.

ALERTED BY THIS INCIDENT, ANN REALIZED WE HAD TO ACT.

THELMA SIBLEY AND ANN BROWN AND CPSC FORMED A PARTNERSHIP.

WE PRESENTED THE INDUSTRY WITH OUR EVIDENCE.

IN FOUR MONTHS MANUFACTURERS VOLUNTARILY AGREED TO REMOVE NECK AND HOOD DRAWSTRINGS FROM MOST OF THE 20 MILLION CHILDREN'S GARMENTS.

TODAY, THEY NO LONGER SELL CHILDREN'S OUTER GARMENTS WITH STRINGS ON THE HOODS AND OR NECKS.

QUICK RESPONSE -- ON LIMITED RESOURCES -- AND NO GOVERNMENT RED TAPE.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, CPSC JOINED WITH THE MCDONALDS' CORPORATION TO LAUNCH A MAJOR BIKE HELMET SAFETY INITIATIVE .

TO ENCOURAGE BIKE RIDERS ACROSS AMERICA, ESPECIALLY YOUNGSTERS, TO "GET THE HELMET HABIT."

I HARDLY HAVE TO TELL THIS AUDIENCE THAT THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING BIKE RIDERS CAN DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM HEAD INJURIES IS TO WEAR A BIKE HELMET.

IN A NEW SURVEY, WE FOUND THAT BIKE HELMET USE HAS INCREASED FROM 18% IN 1991 TO ABOUT 50% TODAY.

MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER ARE BUYING AND WEARING BIKE HELMETS.

THAT IS PROGRESS, BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH. HALF OF ALL BIKE RIDERS STILL DO NOT WEAR HELMETS WHEN THEY RIDE.

EACH YEAR ABOUT 900 PEOPLE ARE KILLED WHILE RIDING BIKES, 200 OF THEM CHILDREN UNDER 15.

ABOUT 567,000 PEOPLE GO TO HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS WITH BIKE-RELATED INJURIES.

OF THESE ABOUT 350,000 ARE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 15.

AND ABOUT 130,000 OF THESE CHILDREN SUFFER HEAD INJURIES, MANY OF THEM SERIOUS.

MORE CHILDREN AGES 5-14 GO TO HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS FOR INJURIES ASSOCIATED WITH BICYCLES THAN WITH ANY OTHER SPORT.

OUR JOB AT THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION IS TO HELP PREVENT THESE DEATHS AND INJURIES.

THIS YEAR CPSC'S NEW SAFETY STANDARD FOR BICYCLE HELMETS WENT INTO EFFECT.

IN THE PAST CONSUMERS WERE CONFUSED ABOUT WHICH SAFETY STANDARD THEIR HELMET SHOULD MEET.

CPSC WORKED HARD TO COME UP WITH ONE NEW SAFETY STANDARD THAT CONSUMERS CAN COUNT ON TO ENSURE THEIR HELMETS ARE SAFE.

NOW, WHEN YOU BUY A HELMET, YOU JUST NEED TO LOOK FOR THE LABEL THAT SAYS THE HELMET MEETS THE CPSC SAFETY STANDARD.

EXPERTS ESTIMATE BIKE HELMETS CAN REDUCE THE RISK OF HEAD INJURY BY 85%.

THAT IS WHY CPSC AND MCDONALD'S LAUNCHED THIS INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE WHO RIDES TO "GET THE HELMET HABIT."

WE HAVE USED OTHER INNOVATIVE WAYS TO
DRAW ATTENTION TO IMPORTANT SAFETY ISSUES.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, FIRST LADY HILLARY
RODHAM CLINTON JOINED CHAIRMAN BROWN AT A
CHILD CARE CENTER IN WASHINGTON TO HELP US
LAUNCH A NEW CHILD-CARE SAFETY INITIATIVE.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN
UNDER AGE 6 NOW SPEND A PART OF EACH DAY IN
CHILD CARE.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN 1997, ABOUT 31,000
CHILDREN, 4 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER, SUSTAINED
INJURIES IN CHILD CARE OR SCHOOL SETTINGS THAT
WERE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO SEND THEM TO HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY ROOMS FOR TREATMENT.

AND, MOST TRAGICALLY, SINCE 1990, WE KNOW OF
56 DEATHS OF CHILDREN IN CHILD CARE.

WE KNOW THAT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS ACROSS AMERICA TRY TO PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE YOUNG CHILDREN THEY CARE FOR.

AND MOST OF THEM DO A VERY GOOD JOB.

BUT WE WANTED TO FIND OUT IF THEY WERE AWARE OF SOME SPECIFIC SAFETY HAZARDS THAT CPSC KNOWS HAVE CAUSED INJURIES AND DEATHS TO YOUNG CHILDREN.

IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1998, CPSC STAFF CONDUCTED A NATIONAL STUDY OF CHILD CARE SETTINGS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

WE FOCUSSED ON EIGHT POTENTIAL HAZARDS THAT HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF INJURY TO CHILDREN IN THEIR HOMES OR IN CHILD CARE.

SOME OF THE HAZARDS WE LOOKED FOR ARE OBVIOUS, LIKE PLAYGROUND SURFACING THAT HAS WORN THIN.

OTHERS ARE HAZARDS THAT CAREGIVERS MAY NOT BE AWARE OF, LIKE SOFT BEDDING IN CRIBS, OR PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN RECALLED.

STILL OTHERS ARE HIDDEN HAZARDS THAT MAY NOT BE OBVIOUS – LIKE THE DANGERS OF WINDOW BLIND CORDS OR DRAWSTRINGS ON CHILDREN’S CLOTHING.

CPSC STAFF VISITED 220 CHILD CARE SETTINGS CENTERS OF DIFFERENT KINDS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CENTERS, NON-PROFIT CENTERS, IN-HOME SETTINGS AND FOR-PROFIT CENTERS.

WE FOUND THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE 220 SETTINGS HAD AT LEAST ONE SAFETY HAZARD, WHICH COULD PUT CHILDREN AT RISK OF INJURY OR DEATH.

MOST OF THE HAZARDS WE FOUND CAN BE EASILY AND QUICKLY CORRECTED.

AND WE KNOW THAT PARENTS AND CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS WANT TO ACT AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAN TO MAKE THESE CORRECTIONS.

SO WE DEVELOPED A CHECKLIST TO HELP PARENTS AND PROVIDERS SPOT PROBLEMS.

YOU CAN FIND THE INFORMATION ON OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.CPSC.GOV. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP GET THIS INFORMATION TO EVERY PARENT AND PROVIDER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ANOTHER PROGRAM WHERE WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

EACH YEAR, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, WE HAVE HELD AN ANNUAL RECALL ROUNDUP IN THE SPRING.

WE DO IT BECAUSE WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO
GET MORE RECALLED PRODUCTS OUT OF CONSUMERS'
HOMES.

WE CAN GO ON TELEVISION.

WE CAN GET RECALL INFORMATION IN
NEWSPAPERS.

WE CAN PUT IT ON THE WEB.

BUT WE CAN'T GET TO EVERYONE.

THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME PEOPLE WHO DON'T
HEAR ABOUT A RECALL AND SOMETIMES THAT HAS
TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES.

RECALL ROUNDUP IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL 50
STATES, U.S. TERRITORIES AND WASHINGTON, DC. IT
INVOLVES STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, HEALTH AND
SAFETY AGENCIES, AND NATIONAL AND GRASSROOTS
ORGANIZATIONS. THE IDEA IS TO GET THE WORD OUT
ABOUT PREVIOUSLY RECALLED PRODUCTS.

164 RECALL ROUNDUP ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED IN 1999, INCLUDING SURVEYS OF DAY CARE CENTERS, DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM GUIDES, PRESENTATIONS TO PARENTING CLASSES, SHOPPING MALL EXHIBITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, AND RADIO AND TV APPEARANCES.

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, GOVERNOR SHAHEEN ISSUED A STATE-WIDE PROCLAMATION AND PRESS RELEASE. THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DUPLICATED MATERIALS AND PRESENTED THEM TO ALL THE SCHOOL NURSES IN THE STATE. A VIDEO NEWS RELEASE WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEDIA AND ACTIVITIES WERE HELD AT THE PORTSMOUTH CHILD CARE CENTER. WOW! THAT WAS A GREAT EFFORT. OF COURSE, WE ARE GOING TO ASK YOU TO DO EVEN MORE IN 2000.

WHAT DO ALL OF THESE EXAMPLES HAVE IN
COMMON?

I CAN TELL YOU IN ONE WORD.

TEAMWORK.

TEAMWORK BETWEEN CPSC AND A WOMAN LIKE
THELMA SIBLEY.

OR WITH MCDONALD'S.

OR WITH PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS IN NEW
HAMPSHIRE.

THERE IS SO MUCH WE CAN ACCOMPLISH
TOGETHER.

EFFECTIVE INJURY CONTROL MUST INVOLVE ALL
OF US WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM.

WE NEED PEOPLE LIKE YOU – PUBLIC OFFICIALS,
INJURY PREVENTION SPECIALISTS, FIREFIGHTERS,
POLICE, EDUCATORS – WORKING TO PROMOTE SAFETY
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

WE NEED TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU.
THAT IS WHY WE THOUGHT THIS CONFERENCE
WAS SO IMPORTANT.

WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT.
BUT BELIEVE ME -- THERE'S MUCH LEFT TO
ACCOMPLISH.

ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM -- NO MATTER WHAT WE
DO OR WHO WE WORK FOR -- ARE CONSUMERS, TOO.

THE WORK WE DO INVOLVES NOTHING LESS THAN
PROTECTING THE LIVES OF THOSE MOST PRECIOUS TO
US.

OUR FAMILIES.

I COULD QUOTE YOU ALL THE STATISTICS YOU
WANT ABOUT LIVES THREATENED AND DOLLARS
SAVED IN THE AREA OF CONSUMER SAFETY.

BUT AS THE NOVELIST ARTHUR KOESTLER ONCE
WROTE: "STATISTICS DON'T BLEED."

NUMBERS DON'T TELL YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SEE
A LOVED ONE THREATENED.

THEY DON'T TELL YOU WHAT IT'S LIKE TO
LOSE A CHILD.

WHEN CHAIRMAN BROWN LEARNED ABOUT
THELMA SIBLEY'S DAUGHTER, SHE CALLED THELMA
BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO EXPRESS HER OWN SENSE
OF SORROW AT THIS TERRIBLE LOSS.

BUT SHE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THIS
COURAGEOUS AND ADMIRABLE WOMAN, GALVANIZED
BY THIS PERSONAL TRAGEDY, WOULD WORK SO HARD
TO HELP PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHOSE LITTLE SON OR
DAUGHTER SHE SAVED.

THAT'S ALWAYS THE CASE WITH SAFETY ISSUES.

YOU DON'T SEE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT THE
LITTLE GIRL WHO SLID SAFELY DOWN THE SLIDE...

OR THE BOY WHO DIDN'T LOSE HIS EYE TO
FIREWORKS.

OR THE GRANDDAUGHTER WHO DIDN'T FRACTURE
HER SKULL FALLING OFF A BIKE.

BUT THEY ARE OUT THERE.

AND THE FACT IS, THEY ARE OUT THERE IN
INCREASING NUMBERS BECAUSE OF THE WORK OF ALL
OF YOU.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST FEW YEARS ARE
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALL OF US, WORKING IN OUR
VARIOUS WAYS.

WORKING AS A TEAM.

SO, I THANK YOU AGAIN FOR INVITING CPSC TO BE
HERE TODAY. BUT MOST OF ALL, I THANK EACH AND
EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR THE IMPORTANT WORK YOU
DO HELPING TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.