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Designation of October 31 of Each Year as National UNICEF Day

SPEECH
OF

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OF MARYLAND

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Wednesday, March 9, 1966

Mr. TYDINGS. Mr. President, on behalf of my distinguished colleagues, Senators ALLOTT, DOUGLAS, HART, MCGEE, METCALF, MORSE, NELSON, NEUBERGER, RIBICOFF, and myself, I introduce, for appropriate reference, a joint resolution authorizing and requesting the President of the United States to designate October 31 as National UNICEF Day.

The United Nations established its Children's Fund—called UNICEF—in December 1946 as an emergency agency to provide aid to the children in the war-ravaged countries of Europe. UNICEF proved so successful in this immediate postwar operation that the United Nations extended UNICEF's mandate to include not only programs to insure children's survival but also programs to prepare children for healthy and useful lives.

More than 1 billion children are growing up in the world today. Many of them are slowly starving to death and many others will die from diseases which modern medicine has learned to prevent or cure. UNICEF aid is reaching millions of these children and their mothers in more than a hundred countries. UNICEF has helped to cure 37 million cases of yaws. It has treated 11 million cases of trachoma and over a million cases of leprosy. It has helped countless numbers of children through the health centers, clinics, and maternity hospitals it has equipped. In addition, UNICEF has supplied equipment and funds to train child health and welfare workers, nutrition experts, and teachers.

For its outstanding success in attacking age-old scourges such as leprosy, malaria, and tuberculosis, of which children are the most vulnerable victims, the United Nations Children's Fund was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last October. In awarding this treasured honor to UNICEF, the Nobel Committee recognized the fundamental contribution to peace which UNICEF is making through its successful efforts to overcome some of the basic causes of unrest and war.

UNICEF promotes the cause of peace by helping children without regard to the

color, creed, nationality, or political beliefs of their parents. Furthermore, UNICEF encourages nations to work together for the benefit of their children.

UNICEF is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, private organizations, and individuals who believe in the value of its work. The largest single private campaign for UNICEF in the world is that of our own boys and girls who collect coins for UNICEF instead of asking for treats on Halloween.

Trick or treat for UNICEF started spontaneously in 1950 when a small Sunday school class raised \$17 for UNICEF. From that small beginning, the trick or treat for UNICEF program has grown until, last year, over 3 million young people in 50 States collected well over \$2 million for UNICEF. Children in my own State of Maryland raised about \$63,000 for UNICEF last Halloween.

The cumulative total raised by American children since the Trick or Treat for UNICEF movement began in 1950 amounts to over \$17 million. These funds have purchased food, medicines, and other aid for millions of children in the developing countries in order to give them new hope for a healthier and happier life.

Every American President since UNICEF was established has given strong endorsement to its work. President Johnson has specifically approved the Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign. On March 17, 1965, in a statement to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, the President said:

In keeping with our traditional spirit of good will and generosity, each American can help UNICEF to continue its work by participating in the trick-or-treat program at Halloween and in the greeting card campaign. Mrs. Johnson and I hope that our fellow citizens this year will once again join in bringing the opportunity for a better life to more of the world's children.

On receiving word of the Nobel Peace Prize Award, President Johnson said:

UNICEF is giving new hope for a better life to the generations in whose hands the security of the world will soon rest. There is no nobler work for peace. Your UNICEF Trick or Treat Day has helped turn a holiday too often marred by youthful vandalism into a program of basic training in world citizenship.

In recognition of UNICEF's vital work and in recognition of the magnificent contribution by American children to the cause of international understand-

ing and good will through the Halloween UNICEF campaign, I join these several of my colleagues in introducing this resolution to authorize and request the President of the United States to issue a proclamation, annually, designating October 31 as National UNICEF Day.

I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution lie on the table for 1 week for the benefit of other Senators who will wish to cosponsor it, and that the joint resolution be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the joint resolution will lie on the desk, as requested by the Senator from Maryland, and will be printed in the Record.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 144) authorizing the President to designate October 31 of each year as National UNICEF Day, introduced by Mr. TYDINGS (for himself and Mr. MORSE), was received, read twice by its title, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S.J. RES. 144

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth in the world's developing countries through assistance to governments to help eliminate hunger, disease, and ignorance; and

Whereas the accomplishments of UNICEF have been recognized by the high honor of the award of the 1965 Nobel Peace Prize; and

Whereas the peace of the world in the future depends on increasing the opportunities for development of today's children; and

Whereas UNICEF's programs in behalf of children and youth are dependent for financial support upon the voluntary contributions of governments and private citizens; and

Whereas the children of the United States are making an important contribution to UNICEF through the trick-or-treat campaign on Halloween: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue annually a proclamation designating October 31 as National UNICEF Day, inviting the Governors and mayors of State and local governments of the United States to issue similar proclamations, and urging all Americans, both adults and children, in their traditional spirit of good will, to continue and to strengthen their support of UNICEF, not only as individuals but also through their schools, their churches, and other community organizations.