

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

June 19th, 1951

Description: In this segment, ER asks listeners to donate to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Participants: Eleanor Roosevelt

[ER:] Today, science seeks knowledge to combat disease and alleviate human suffering. This is a year-round campaign for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, an organization which sponsors research in order to determine the cause and effective treatment for the dreaded nerve disorder, multiple sclerosis. Medical research has made great advances in the prevention and treatment of the diseases of childhood, such as typhoid fever and diphtheria. A tremendous job, however, remains to be done with the chronic diseases of the nervous system, which disable and cripple thousands of young people yearly. Multiple sclerosis is a disease of the central nervous system, in which the myelin sheath is partially destroyed, causing widespread disabilities. Visualize what happens when there is a short circuit in an electric wire and you have a good idea of what happens in multiple sclerosis, when nerve impulses cannot properly be carried through the body. Some of its symptoms are impaired vision, staggering gait, numbness, bladder trouble, and lack of muscle control. Young adults in their prime of life, and usually between the ages of 20 and 40, are the victims of this di --

[Audio cuts off at 1:28, resumes at 1:36]

[ER:] -- National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This young organization, only four years old, has made great strides in its program of medical research, public education, and aid to the multiple sclerotic. Already, the society, which represents over sixteen thousand members in this country and abroad, is sponsoring vitally important research projects including five clinics. According to a survey conducted for the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation covering all leading voluntary health agencies last year, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society spent the largest percentage of its funds for research. This is good, but so much remains to be done. The Society hopes to support other important research projects and establish much needed clinics in many other areas of the country. But money is badly needed to implement its program; multiple sclerosis has been a neglected disease. It needs to be brought to the forefront as a worthy cause that deserves public support. Also of prime importance in the Society's drive to locate all victims of multiple sclerosis. This will help determine the number of people in the United States who are victims of the disease. Today, as never before, it is important to utilize the vast human resources laid to waste by thecrippler multiple sclerosis. Young victims of multiple sclerosis long to lead normal lives and contribute their skills and energies to their country. Medical research in the field of multiple sclerosis and relected [she may intend to say reflected] nerve disorders is one of our first lines of national defense.

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