

# NICHD History of Betrayal of Mothers and Children

James W. Prescott, Ph.D.

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The U.S. Congress established the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health on October 17, 1962 under Public Law: PL 87-838, which stated its Mission:

"...to establish in the Public Health Service an Institute for the conduct and support of research and training relating to maternal health, child health, and human development, *including research and training in the special health problems and requirements of mothers and children...*"(Sec 441).

Child abuse and neglect are internationally recognized as "special health problems and requirements of mothers and children".

The NICHD affirmed its agency responsibility in this area with the 1968 publication of *Perspectives on Human Deprivation: Biological, Psychological and Sociological* with its conclusion that the scientists were "...unanimous in urging that high priority and massive support be given to expansion of research in psychosocial deprivation: (Gerald D. LaVeck, M.D., Director, NICHD).

Gilbert L Woodside, Ph.D., Acting Director, NICHD stated in his opening remarks before an "NICHD Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect" the following: "The convening of this Conference is one of the tasks assumed by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, in connection with the request, about a year ago by Secretary Weinberger, for increased emphasis on child abuse and child neglect by the agencies of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare." (July 17, 1974).

C. Everett Koop, M.D., Surgeon General of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) stated in an address before the *American Academy of Pediatrics*, October 26, 1982 that "...A family environment that is cruel and uncaring will send cruel and uncaring children into the world as aggressive, violent adults."

Louis W. Sullivan, Secretary, DHHS stated in "The Risks of Poor Parenting" in Commemoration of Child Health Day October 7, 1991 "...The single greatest risk factor for poor child health is poor parenting" and that "There are no vaccines against child abuse".

Urie Bronfenbrenner, Chairman, *1970 White House Conference on Children*, in a Minority Report, Forum 15, stated: "American families, and their children, are in trouble, trouble so deep and pervasive as to threaten the future of our nation. The source of the trouble is nothing less than a national neglect of children and those primarily engaged in their care--America's parents."

Norman Kretchmer, M.D, Ph.D., Director NICHD, stated "...'developmental origins of violence' and 'child abuse and neglect', subjects that are not within the mission of the NICHD, as part of the programs of this Institute." (11 April 1980).

DHHS Secretary Schweiker stated in a letter dated 11 May 1981 to Senator McC Mathias: "The NICHD has never supported a program of research on child abuse and neglect".

James W. Prescott, Ph.D. stated in Congressional Testimony on Child Abuse and Neglect, Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, Honorable William, H. Natcher, Chair, US House of Representatives, the following: "...Again, I would like to emphasize that the future of any nation rests upon its children." (May 10, 1983).

Congressional hearings are requested to review this history of betrayal of mothers and children; that mothers and children are worse off today than in 1970 when alarm bells were rung at the *1970 White House Conference on Children*, and an explanation given for the wrongful termination of Dr. Prescott for defending the abused and neglected children of this nation.

**THE CHILD IS THE FATHER OF THE MAN  
THE CHILD IS THE MOTHER OF CULTURE  
THE CHILD IS THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY**