

10-21-00 UNL-0-1000  
Michey Kankry/Fashion History  
Dinner

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR NATIONAL CENTER ON  
POVERTY LAW AWARDS DINNER FOR  
MICKEY KANTOR AND FATHER HESBURGH  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
TAPED OCTOBER 21 – TO BE AIRED NOVEMBER 15, 2000**

Good evening. I am delighted to join the National Center on Poverty Law and all of you for this extraordinary event. I only wish I could be there in person to congratulate Mickey Kantor and Father Hesburgh, and thank each of you there for working to keep our nation's most solemn promise, the promise of justice for all.

Because without the efforts of organizations such as The Center, justice is only a word. It is only a word without visionary leaders such as your founder Sarge Shriver, who helped support many other early Legal Aid services around the country, including the one I worked at during law school. And justice is only a word without the commitment of the first two recipients of the Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr. Award for Equal Justice.

Most Americans know Mickey Kantor for his exemplary public service as the US Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Commerce. The fact is, Mickey has held some of the most prestigious jobs around. But he will often tell you the best job he ever had was working with migrant farmers right after law school. I had the privilege of serving with Mickey on the board of the Legal Services Corporation. And I saw way back then the same thing I have seen ever since -- an energy, passion, and tireless commitment to bring justice and dignity to every single human being. So, Mickey, I want to thank you and your family for all your support and friendship these many years. But, even more than that, I want to thank you for being such a friend to the countless Americans who now have more rights, more opportunities, and more chances to reach their God given potential -- because of you.

And I want to congratulate tonight's other honoree, who has been a good friend to my family, a living legend of peace and a source of inspiration to us all. For over fifty years, Father Theodore Hesburgh has, by word and example, encouraged world leaders and students alike to raise their voices on behalf of the voiceless, and use their hands to bring about peace. Even after serving as the President of Notre Dame for 35 years, Father Ted -- as he is called on campus -- still welcomes everyone into his office. His light is always on. His heart is always open. And his mind is always focused on inspiring us all to understand our responsibilities to each other, and work day and night to make sure that every human beings rights are respected, and every human being has the chance to live with dignity and peace. For that is what he has dedicated his life to.

And that is what the National Center on Poverty has always stood for. You know that justice should never be reserved for people of particular races or religions, genders or incomes. And I want to thank you for all you've done -- and all you will do -- to make the promise of justice for all, a reality for all. Have a wonderful night -- and I wish you Godspeed in your critical work in the days and years ahead.