

STATEMENT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM SHARE HOLDERS  
CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY RESOLUTION

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May 21, 1980

My name is Luella Kenny. I am a cancer research assistant at Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, New York. From July 1st 1969 to September 5, 1979 I resided at 1064 96th Street, Niagara Falls, New York, which is located approximately 0.1 of a mile from the northern boundary of the Love Canal. My husband and I with our two surviving sons were forced to abandon this residence because of the presence of toxins that had migrated from the Love Canal. Since that time we have lived a vagabond existence waiting for this problem to be resolved. An old stream bed, which intersected with Love Canal, runs through our property. This stream bed is now filled and is part of our yard. In addition, at the back edge of our property is Black Creek which has been found to be contaminated with chemicals, by the Environmental Protection Agency and by the New York State Health Department. Also located on this property is a storm sewer which drains the area North of the Love Canal. Large amounts of Dioxin were found where this storm sewer empties into Black Creek. My sons spent many hours playing in the creek by this storm sewer. Our seven year old son died October 4th, 1978 from complications that resulted from nephrosis. This spring E.P.A. erected a six foot fence in our yard and along Black Creek because of the hazard.

Jon became ill on June 6th, 1978. Initially his illness was diagnosed as an allergy, however on July 1st, 1980 he was diagnosed as having nephrosis. Nephrosis in its early stages is often masked by symptoms resembling allergies. John responded to treatment for

nephrosis and was referred to Children's Hospital in Buffalo, New York because of the chronic nature of the disease. Jon had three relapses in two and a half months and then he developed convulsions, visual hallucinations, and eventually a massive pulmonary embolism. Jon's death was caused by a cardiac arrest brought on by the exertion of trying to breathe.

At the time of Jon's death we had no idea that it could be linked to chemical toxicity. We requested an autopsy because we wanted to know why our son had died when we had been told all along that nephrosis was nothing to worry about. To quote the urologist at Children's Hospital, "nephrosis is the best disease a child can have, because it can be cured." However, this same doctor was puzzled by the fact that Jon's symptoms were not typical, particularly the convulsions, nor did he respond to treatment as expected.

After Jon's death we read in the newspaper that the state of New York was going to investigate his death. It was at this time that my husband and I began to try to learn more about the disease. We began delving into medical journals, and corresponding with leading research groups in the field of nephrosis. We were shocked to find that during the past ten years there have been countless reports of people developing nephrosis when they were exposed to chemicals. We also did some research into dioxin toxicity and discovered that many of Jon's autopsy findings were related to dioxin poisoning; for example a shrunken thymus.

Since we left our home in September our two sons have shown a remarkable improvement. The older boy who had frequent headaches is much better, and our younger son's appetite has returned.

Dr. Beverly Paigen from Roswell Park Memorial Institute compiled an epidemiological study, of the Love Canal Area. This study

clearly shows the higher incidences of miscarriages, birth defects, nervous disorders and suicides just to name a few of the many illnesses that are being experienced by the residents. Many of these illnesses follow the filled in stream beds indicating a migration of chemicals. These illnesses were even more graphically portrayed when we were living in hotels last fall. It's one thing to read the statistics, but it is something else when you have hundreds of people together under a common roof with their related illnesses.

It's amazing all of these illnesses are prefaced with the term ideopathic, that is, origin unknown. Jon's illness is referred to in medical journals as ideopathic nephrosis. Malissa Gibbs, the four year old daughter of the Love Canal Homeowners Association president, was rushed to the hospital last month when her blood platelet count dropped from a normal of 150,000-400,000 to 1000. She was diagnosed as having a blood disease called I.T.P. The I of course stands for idiopathic.

The following words are truer today than what they were in 1776 when Thomas Paine penned them in his American Crisis #1, he wrote "These are the times to try men's souls." Inflation has forced both individual consumers and giant corporations to reassess their "style of living". The current political unrests that exist all over the world have left us in fear of another world war.

However, we won't have to worry about the luxuries we can't afford because of inflation, and why worry about an enemy who will destroy us when we are self-destructing. We don't need sophisticated nuclear weapons; all we need are the multitude of dumps strategically placed all over the country that will insidiously destroy everything and everyone in its path.

We have the power and the ability to stop this now before it's too late. I'm sure that our ancestors found it difficult to eliminate child labor, and sweat shops. Certainly they must have felt that this would be their downfall, but history has proven that giant corporations can grow and still have concern for their employees. Now is the time to publicly exhibit what a giant we are and magnanimously lead the way in insuring a world for our grandchildren and future generations.