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Helenka Pantaleoni

Interview No. 7
by Richard Polsky
June 10, 1977

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Interview with Mrs. Guido Pantaleoni
in New York, New York

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Q: This is the seventh conversation with Mrs. Pantaleoni and Richard Polsky, and the date is June 10th. Mrs. Pantaleoni, maybe you could begin this time, or today, by just, as we reach the latter stages of our visits together, maybe you could just discuss a little bit about how you feel about this oral history process and how it's affected your attitude towards your work for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, and just give us a sort of a reminiscence a little bit about the whole experience.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, I'd like to very much, Mr. Polsky, because I must tell you, when I was first asked to do this, I was reminded so much of the memoirs of that famous French woman - her name escapes me - Françoise, not Sagan, but the one who was in the French Cabinet. She's an economist and a book by her has just been published. She speaks about - her book was based very much on this kind of question-and-answer interview, written jointly with an interviewer, and she spoke about the inevitability of having to say things about people that she perhaps would hesitate to say if she were writing it just on her own.

It's inevitable, of course, that we get subjective in these things. I think it's part of the point of having somebody do it, because your own impressions you have to sort of editorialize and censor as you go along. And I sometimes think that maybe I get carried away, with something that must seem farfetched - to emphasize some point.

Recently, I've been reading so much about various literary critics, what they've been saying about these oral histories. I remember one who said that there were becoming accumulated mountains and mountains of trivia.

Q: Yes, I read that.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Did you read that? Well, there are, but another literary critic said, apropos of that point, there were mountains of trivia, what's

trivia to some is nuggets of gold to another, and I'm not alchemist enough to transform this kind of dross into gold, but I'm very firmly convinced that in some of my memories there are little revealing items, situations, tableaux even, that are very symbolic or indicative of something quite important in the development of UNICEF.

Also, another critic, did you see, when he was asked whether there was any - a historian, I think, a well-known historian was asked whether these oral histories should be undertaken, he said, "only if you have the talent of a Homer". Well, I'm no Homer surely. Then again, I'd sort of hate to leave this vale of tears without putting on record very definite impressions that have been formulated over the years, and that's why I agreed to do it, because I think even if one of the things that's been said in all the hours we've been talking sparks a research scholar to go deeper into things, I think it would be very worthwhile.

Q: I do, too.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: I do. And incidentally, Lloyd Bailey, wanted me to be the one that you would be interviewing, because I think I'm the only person alive that's really been with this thing from the very beginning. I had a pre-natal sort of interest in it, and then I followed it without ceasing up to this very day.

Q: Yes, and when Mr. Charnow does write his history, I'm sure that your reminiscences would be very important.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Well, you know, I mentioned Jack Charnow's appropriateness with the probability that he will do it, because he's not only Secretary of the Exectutive Board, but he's also in charge of documents and a highly intelligent profound brain he has. He's been with us almost from the very beginning, and he's written articles already which are very cogent. He's equipped to do the research and he has the scholarship. He is, incidentally - I'm glad to have a chance to expatiate on him, because he's been one of the positive forces in the whole development of UNICEF.

Maurice Pate was a great judge of people, and he right away saw the worth of Jack Charnow. He was one of the ones he had confidence in from the very beginning. Jack always takes a constructive attitude. He doesn't waste time

on negatives or small things, but he's been really a great force for good in sort of a sunny and radiant way in the whole development of UNICEF.

Incidentally, if I talk about Maurice Pate so much more than about the present incumbent, Mr. Labouisse, it's because, of course, I knew Maurice so well and so intimately, and if he'd been my own brother I couldn't have been more fond of him. And it's not to draw any kind of comparisons between executive directors, it's just that the whole situation was different. Mr. Labouisse came in much later, and the organization had grown to the extent where there wasn't the daily contact that I had, for instance, practically daily interviews with Maurice Pate. But that in no way lessens my admiration or my respect for what Henry Labouisse is doing. He's a very remarkable person, and UNICEF has really been extraordinarily fortunate in its top echelon people. Maurice Pate was remarkable in his way. Mr. Labouisse, Henry Labouisse, is remarkable in his way, and the man who is now the candidate of our Government, James Grant, the President of the Overseas Development Fund - Council, is also a most remarkable person. I hope he gets the appointment, because I think it would be a great mistake to lose the possibility of getting somebody of his caliber.

Q: Yes. So, you're one of the few persons that has really seen the whole development right up to the present time?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Right up to the present time, and some of these people stand out like mountain tops, you know.

Q: And you said earlier that you'd basically been very pleased with the general high level of administration and the honesty and the selflessness?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Oh, extremely. Extremely. Yes. I don't know how really, if you combed the countryside, I don't know how you could do much better. The important trio - that's Mr. Labouisse, Mr. Heyward, and Dr. Egger, who's in charge of programmes - those three, each one is a man of very special qualifications and each one very strong in his own line.

Q: We can talk about Mr. Egger a little bit. I don't think that you have really had a chance to talk about what his special contribution has been.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, I don't think we talked very much about him. He's been in almost from the beginning, too. He started out, when the European office of UNICEF was in Paris, he started out with that, and afterwards he - he's a Swiss, incidentally - and after that, he served in India for several years as the representative, the Regional Director of UNICEF to the South Central Asia part of the world. And then he was brought up when Adelaide Sinclair retired. He took her post. He succeeded Adelaide as Deputy Executive Director in Charge of Programmes. He's a very solid Swiss. Steady, intelligent, extremely knowledgeable. Very philosophical, and very, very constructive of course, and loyal.

He liked his field work. I think he was not crazy to come back to Headquarters and shuffle papers. I think he was very happy in India, but being a good international servant, of course, he took the job and he is now one of the three big ones there.

Dick Heyward, as we have already said, here's another person whom it is tempting to analyze - to go back to the subjectivity. There's no one for whom I have greater admiration for his special qualities than Dick Heyward. In fact, I think he kept - he was sort of the glue that kept the whole organization right together from the beginning. Very remarkable man.

Q: Could we talk a little bit about Mr. Bailey's responsibilities, something about the load he carries as head of the U.S. Committee and the fund-raising problems that he has, or responsibilities?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes. Well, this is very timely, because at this particular moment I would like to review for you the kind of things that he's eventually responsible for in fund-raising. First of all, of course, we have to be the ones basically interested in the government contribution, about getting that twenty-five million dollars. Even though we can't lobby, because of our tax-exempt status, still we're the ones who have to raise the money privately to float the Citizens' Committee, the lobby group. And as you know, this is very hard to do, because the contributions to the Citizens Committee cannot be taken off income tax. So that means raising about five thousand dollars from our corporate members. That's one job.

Then, in addition to that, we'd raise money from corporate members and from our members for the committee operations, too. In addition to that, we have to go to Foundations for work that we consider not exactly, immediately, directly connected with UNICEF, such as the

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Information Center on Children's Cultures. That means getting Ann Pellowski, Director & Librarian of the Center to draw up presentations, and Lloyd is eventually responsible for that, of course; getting our School Services Department funded, and that also means going to Foundations. Just another responsibility.

Now, there's a Telethon being spoken of to raise money. Did we talk about that?

Q: No.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: No. This would be a very big thing. If you went into that, you'd want to take a prominent star and do it like those Telethons they do for various charities here, you know. It would be an enormous job and quite an expensive one to launch, and if successful, it could bring in a very great deal of money, millions perhaps even.

Q: Would it be a nationwide Telethon or just a local one?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: It might even be an international one. At first it would be nationwide, at least. And we're now sort of aiming at the International Year of the Child, 1979, to get that going, if our Board gives tentative approval for a preliminary cost effective plan. We don't know for sure. But that's another thing that Lloyd has in his briefcase.

In addition to that, we're setting up a fund-raising -- professionally administered fund-raising action on the West Coast. That also involves effort because our whole energy is geared very much toward increasing our fund-raising capacity, both in the middle of the country, in Atlanta, which services the Southeast region now, and the West Coast.

In addition to all that, now we have the Lebanese appeal, which Lloyd Bailey went to see Senator Humphrey about, and launch a five million dollar appeal for the Lebanese children, and you can imagine the mammoth proportions of that.

So all these things coming at once - of course, as Lloyd says, we have to take them one at a time, but they don't wait around. Some of them are concurrent.

Well, now, we've just come from the Ford Foundation, where we asked for two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to launch four Regional Seminars. As I was telling you about before, we are gearing them for the International Year of the Child, and a Resource Center.

All these things, of course, the staff prepares in advance, but Lloyd has the ultimate responsibility for them. So that we're not idle in the fund-raising field, and I grow concerned that it's too much of a load on our Executive Director. He has a very good staff on the whole, but no exact deputy on whom he can unload. It's a very hard post to fill. I think we touched on that earlier. And strong and balanced as he is, he's still - he's flesh and blood and we don't want to tire him out.

Also, there's the inevitable change in staff turnover. He's losing his secretary, who was very good. Our comptroller is about to leave. That means filling those posts. Then the day-to-day things pressing, you know, just delay and complicate life. He's carrying too much.

Q: Is there any plan afoot with the Board to maybe create a post of Deputy Director?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: That's a good question, because we're just now talking about that among the officers. It's again a difficult post to fill. You either get somebody who's too weak and can't take responsibility or doesn't win the confidence of the rest of the staff, or you get a go-getter who would like to be in Lloyd's shoes, you know. It's very hard to get that in-between person, somebody who is tactful, diplomatic, who will take the responsibility and be a sort of an alter-ego for Lloyd.

Q: Satisfied being the assistant, rather than the head?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: This is it, yes. This is it. If we could find somebody like that, who eventually would be groomed for the Executive Director's job, it would be fine, but you have to comb the country. It's difficult.

Q: Do you think you would like to talk a little bit more about the proposed project on the Regional Conferences for 1979, or do you think that you'd rather wait?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: That's still too raw, I think. We've got a good start from the point of view of enlisting interest, because we've been setting up a National Advisory Council, composed of the child-related organizations of this country. I signed a letter to about two hundred and fifty organizations, and replies have been streaming in. The answers are very enthusiastic, on the whole. I think already we have fifteen or twenty percent answers; almost, I would say, ninety-nine percent of those wanting to be part of this National Advisory Council. Of course, the money is something else again. The seminars will take money, and the Resource Center will take money, and there won't be any seminars if we can't raise the money now, because we're not in any position to take UNICEF-raised funds. No, we can't possibly.

Q: Could you just speak briefly about what you envision the purpose of the seminars being? The subject matter and the purpose of the seminars?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: We want to bring leaders, community leaders, in child welfare or educational work together, and to have them hear the very top best speakers, like Margaret Mead, say, I'm just using her as an example - but that type of speaker. And it would be something that you brought up before we started, which I think is important, of not being a one-shot thing, but to have action develop out of it. Not only raise the awareness of those leaders about the condition of children all around the world, but what can be done and what similarities there are between what our children need and what the others need, and to have the record available, the record of these seminars available for the future. It's not just goodbye, it was an interesting conference, and then forget it the next day.

And then, the Resources Center also would be - it would be more like a referral, I think, a reference library. Somebody wanted, say, a paper on sanitation, measures being taken in African countries for children, this Center would refer them to the proper document. It would have to be run by an expert, by a professional, but it's something that's badly needed.

Q: Yes, certainly. You might want to - a suggestion that I just thought of - you might want to just make note of the fact that when these famous speakers come to make their presentations, you might be able to get the money for the conference by sending someone around now to investigate with public television, or even commercial television, the possibility that they might be willing to finance making videotapes of the presentation for showing on television?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Extremely useful suggestion, yes.

Q: I just thought of that.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Extremely useful.

Q: Because if Margaret Mead or other specialists of her caliber were to come for a seminar, I would think that public television might well be interested.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: That's an excellent suggestion. I'll pass that right on to our -

Q: Or else, what I can give you later on, I don't have to do it now, are some names of some foundations that are interested in communications.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Oh, it would be invaluable, Dick. Incidentally, the man who has agreed to be Chairman of the Working Group has been working for about a year already on this International Year of the Child, is Dr. Gordon Klopff. Did I mention him?

Q: Oh, yes, from Bank Street College, yes.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, exactly. From Bank Street College. He's extremely interested, spends an awful lot of time on it, busy as he is. Bank Street school is not involved in any way. I mean, it's not a - he's not self-serving this thing. It's just pure interest. He has great faith that it will be able to make an enormous contribution, not only to education but to the general understanding of conditions in the world, if this thing would go through.

Q: I think it could really be terrific.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: It could, it could. We just hope the foundations will share our opinion. But there again, it takes so much time. We've already been turned down by four or five foundations. The Ford Foundation - you see, it's very hard to explain that even though we've made a lot of money that we are not in a position to use part of all those millions of dollars for this kind of work. We're creatures, as Lloyd said this morning, we're a creature of

UNICEF in a sense. It's in our title. We're a Committee for UNICEF. We can keep money back for our own expenses, and actually we do much more than UNICEF itself thinks is legitimate. They approve very much of the Cultural Information Center we have, but they say it's not really UNICEF. It's for the American public and children. And it is. But the long vision is that if the American Children are not educated about other children, what hope has UNICEF got of surviving? None. But it's still a little bit remote, and it takes a very broad point of view to go along with it.

So, in other words, we could not dip our hand in the kitty and take two hundred and fifty thousand dollars out of the money we raise in the name of UNICEF.

Q: Well now, the International Year of the Child is a UNICEF project, is that correct?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: No, it was conceived by Cannon Moerman of Belgium, who has been working for years to get this thing going, and he met with a good deal of lethargy and indifference. But he stuck to it, and he launched this thing really through - starting with a UNICEF Executive Board meeting of a couple of years ago. Then it percolated to the other international organizations. They're now very much concerned with it, and the UNICEF Board discussed it and accepted it in principle. The Economic and Social Council accepted it in principle, and finally, as you know, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution establishing the IYC - this was just last November.

And asking UNICEF to be the lead agency, which means that UNICEF isn't taking responsibility for the year, but it's the main agency, sort of leading the way, and in that same ratio, what UNICEF is to the UN, we are to UNICEF. So as they're the lead international agency - Mr. Labouisse wrote a letter to all the national committees, asking us to initiate certain actions for the International Children's Year, and as I said, we're taking the leadership in this country.

Q: But what I was trying to ask you about is, would it be possible for the U.S. Committee to ask that in the future - let's say, next year - a proportion of the money that the U.S. Committee collects be earmarked for the Year of the Child, and therefore, you could then maybe go to a foundation and say here is matching money that we have -

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Well, it's possible. I'm not sanguine about it coming off at all, because -

Q: They don't want the money used for this purpose?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: No, they already think that we're using too much money for educational purposes. Most of them do. I think as a last resort we might do it, if we don't get it from any other - I have a hunch our only hope is something like the Ford Foundation, maybe they'll push, give some money on a matching basis. I mean, if we raise some on a matching basis. I think that is a possibility. But even that would be difficult. So far, we haven't had any nibbles at all really. Nothing definite.

Oh, but just a final P. S. I'd hate to miss the boat on this thing, the way the women's thing - you know, that was really a mess. It was so late in the day by the time the U. S. Government pulled itself together to appoint a commission for the Women's year. You remember how much politicizing there was in Mexico City? Politically, it has significance, because women felt they had arrived somewhere, it gave them status, but as far as any coherent result - it was just a mess. It was too little and too late.

And the same thing happened with the children. That's why we're plugging, we're pushing so hard, and we're asking all these two hundred organizations that we want on the Advisory Council to make their voice heard in Washington right away, asking the President to set up a National Commission for the Year of the Child, with Rosalynn, it is to be hoped, as Chairman.

I just read a memo from Washington. There's a good possibility that that will go through. I don't know. I may be optimistic, but it would be helpful. Then, of course, we'd have to mesh our plans with the National Commission naturally.

Q: But that probably wouldn't be too difficult, considering that you're both might be -

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Oh, don't be optimistic. Everything's difficult. It will be a confusion, I'm afraid. It reminds me of my theater work. Because people know how to walk across a room, because they know how to speak, they think they know all about acting. Here, because people have children, they work for children, they all think they know how this thing should be run. One of the

UNICEF officers in charge of this International Year, expressed the general feeling when he said, " We have a tiger by the tail". All we can do is to hang onto them, not let them run with the ball, you know.

Q: Keep the ball firmly in your control?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes. In control, so the discussion doesn't get disheveled and vaporous. It's so easy, a lot of waste motion.

Q: Well, you have a head start on the other organizations, don't you?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: In this country, yes. The international operation of course, UNICEF dominates and we try to co-ordinate the planning.

Q: I mean, in this country.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: In this country, absolutely.

Q: You're the one that are going to run the seminars?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Well, I hope so, if the cash comes through. It would be messy if it doesn't.

Q: Well, I hope it does.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: We'd be very grateful for any suggestions from you about -

Q: Well, I can talk with you a little bit -

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, splendid.

Q: You mentioned earlier something about the fact that there were risks involved in raising funds for UNICEF?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes.

Q: And I thought maybe you could clarify that problem a little bit?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, they're striking out in all directions, but one of the principal ones bothers our Counsel, our legal Counsel, very much, is the fact that - well, the tax business again. UNICEF itself, being an international organization, is not tax-exempt. In other words, if I make a check out to UNICEF, I can't take it off my taxes. Now, the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, being a domestic agency, what they call a charitable organization, chartered in Albany, we are tax-exempt. But, and there's this thing that bothers the Internal Revenue Service, that we can easily be, that we are in fact a conduit organization, that if you give me a hundred dollars for UNICEF, you take it off your taxes because it's made out to the U.S. Committee and we turn that money over to UNICEF, which is not tax-exempt. So we have to go very easy. And of course, there's always the horrible possibility that they could withdraw our tax-exemption. That would be a terrible blow, because lots of people would not give in those circumstances, especially the rich ones, who are in the high tax brackets. And that's an extremely hazardous situation.

Q: Is there always - is the Internal Revenue, are they sort of dissatisfied with the way things are set up?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Again, I think we're too small for them to worry too much, but we have to lie low a good deal, and this troubles our counsel. For instance, a lot of things that the Internal Revenue Services look at is not directly - fund-raising is not directly related to the organization. Now, if we were to sell scarves or sweaters, they'd say that that's an unrelated source of income, and therefore, they might say it's not tax-exempt, you see. But the cards, they leave alone so far, the greeting cards, because that's educational, we can say. Anything that's educational or anything that's part of UNICEF - books, records, that kind of thing - they'll go along with. But not merchandise. We had some bad moments when some tie manufacturer, men's ties - that seemed very hard to relate to UNICEF, but we got away with it because it was a small thing.

But it bothered our counsel and it bothers him increasingly. The more we're noised around about and the more attention we draw to ourselves, of course, and the more prominent we are, the more the Internal Revenue Service supervises what we're doing.

Q: Pay more attention to what you're up to, sure. The fund-raising, of

course, leads right into the next question, and that is not really a question, but I'd like you to expand a little bit, if you could, on the unique relationship between the U.S. Committee and UNICEF. That in the United States, there are not many national organizations that are dedicated to furthering an international organization.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Well, I don't know of any comparable relationship. I remember describing the fact that the State Department once had us for lunch, because they said we were the only organization they knew that had branches all over the country, and this is what makes us, I think, extremely - tired word - extremely unique, is that all ages, old people, young people, children, everybody can work together with our counterparts all over the world for a common goal, which is the future, working for children. I think that puts us in a very special category and one that's very inspiring. It's an enormous stimulus to our volunteers.

Q: Yes. The U.S. Committee - let me just think how I want to ask this - the

U.S. Committee - well, let me come back to that one, okay?

There were a few other personalities. Now, I don't know if you - you did speak today then about Mr. Heyward, Dick Heyward, and Mr. Labouisse. I don't know if there was anything more that you really wanted to add about them, or whether we should go on to -?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes. Well, I did - perhaps you were going to come to it - about the distaff side of it, about their wives?

Q: Yes.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: That is something that must not be neglected, because, as you well know, they're part of the team, all of them, and there are three very different, but three very strong women in this picture. The first one, since she's the closest to our work, of course, is Lloyd Bailey's wife, Mary Margaret, who is also, like him, a member of the Society of Friends. A very attractive person, very steady, never defeated. She's gone through some rugged surgical experiences, but she goes right on, recovers from them and keeps on, and she's been a tower of strength, not only to Lloyd, but to all of

us who are in touch with her.

Then also, the wife of the founder of UNICEF is a very striking person. That's Martha Lucas Pate, Mrs. Maurice Pate. She was Maurice's second wife. His first wife was Polish and there was a difference of - they were incompatible after a while, so they were separated. He always remained on very friendly terms with his Polish wife. Eventually she died, and he didn't marry again for a long time. Then he married a woman of fifty who had never been married. She was Martha Lucas, who was President of Sweetbriar College For Girls and at one time Associate Dean of Radcliffe College. She was a specialist in Philosophy and Religion. A brilliant woman, and a very warm and attractive person. She's been a very good support of the New York Metropolitan Committee for UNICEF, for instance. She comes to meetings. Very warm and very, very outgoing.

Q: Now, Mrs. Pate is, you said, still active in the New York UNICEF?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: She is, yes.

Q: And what does Mrs. Bailey do? Is she actively involved in the regional - ?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: She helps everywhere, of course. She was - she was busy with crippled children, she rehabilitated. She used to teach, I think, gymnastics and physical therapy very successfully, until she got cancer of the breast and had an operation. She had to slow down after that. But she did very full-time work on her specialty and so was in the same general line as her husband.

Q: But her contribution to UNICEF is primarily through Mr. Bailey?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, through Lloyd.

Q: Yes. And Mrs. Labouisse?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Well, she, of course, is a celebrity in her own right. She is Eve Curie, Madame Curie's daughter, and a very fascinating, sparkling person. Very attractive and highly intelligent. She's remarkable because she had a career in her own right. She used to be a journalist during the war. I think she was also a professional musician for a while. But besides being a journalist, she used to go around giving lectures to great acclaim everywhere.

Q: Now, is she at all active in -?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: She's very active.

For instance, she was selling greeting cards every year now at some bank, Fifth Avenue Bank this year. She went down to our Thirty-eighth Street headquarters of the U.S. Committee to address envelopes for the Australian benefit that took place in January, see? So she's not above doing anything. It's quite remarkable that somebody of her renown and her fame - but she's also, I'm sure she shares every single thought of UNICEF problems with her husband, because he has enormous faith, confidence in her.

Q: In her ability.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, and judgement.

Q: You mentioned that you thought the Nobel ceremony and Peace Prize presentation was not only a significant landmark in UNICEF's history, but that there were some sidelights that were, you know, interesting to anyone.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Well, very. One incident that I never know - I don't know how many people did - that the Storting, which is the Norwegian Parliament that gives the Swedish prize - that there are only five people on it, so those five are the ones that choose the international candidates from the whole world.

Q: I didn't know that either.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: No, I learned that. And funny things happen, because I had the honor of being invited to go to the ceremonies in Oslo, and of course, I went. It was most impressive. But my counterpart in Oslo was a lovely woman - Topsy Molstadt, the Chairman of the Norwegian UNICEF Committee, and I asked her, I was thinking out loud, I said, "Topsy, isn't it curious that a Swede - Nobel, after all, was a Swede - that he asked the Norwegian Parliament, the Storting, to make the award?" And she sort of proudly said, "Ah, my dear, it's because he did not trust the Swedes". I did not tell her that I was a little bit Swedish. But, of course, that's that neighbor rivalry - It's always the Poles and the Czechoslovaks, the Norwegians and Swedes, the Arabs and the Jews. So there may have been some truth in that perhaps. I don't know. But Mr. Nobel isn't there to put us straight.

Q: The ceremony was wonderful?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: The ceremony was most impressive.

Mr. Labouisse made the speech of acceptance, and then the next day, sort of like the Ivy Oration was made by Zena Harman, who was then Chairman of the Executive Board of UNICEF. Both were very impressive.

Q: Did the prize money go to some special project or did it just go in the general fund?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: It goes in the general fund.

Q: There wasn't any special Nobel project that was earmarked?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: No, no. There was a medal, a beautiful medal, and then the money. But I thought it was - in a way, of course, Maurice Pate, it was the one prize he wanted for UNICEF not for himself, but for UNICEF. It was a kind of irony that he died the very year that they gave it to UNICEF, but Harry Labouisse is so tactful and such a broad-gauged man that he handled it beautifully, and we were all very proud of the way he carried it off. He handled it with personal modesty and paying tribute to Maurice, who had worked for seventeen years in his tenure of the office.

And then also, he always - Mr. Labouisse's speeches are always very carefully worked over. They always have a great breadth, and at the same time, they're not corny ever. They're quite remarkably effective, all his speeches.

Q: That's a nice happening. I'm sure everybody was -

Mrs. Pantaleoni: It was, and one thing might interest you, that Danny Kaye was first - the word we got was that he was very annoyed. He kept calling up that he hadn't been invited.

Q: He wasn't invited.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: No, and of course, the Storting, the Government was too formal to invite a comedian. So they got around it by - somebody got one of the Norwegian newspapers to invite Danny as their guest, and he came and he made a speech the night before the ceremony, and he was as always charming and very good. Of course, I think he made more of a hit than almost anybody else, as he always does, because he's such good box-office.

Incidentally, Danny got the second - there's a new special, special trophy of UNICEF - the mother and child emblem - which they gave only once before to Professor Debré, I mentioned him earlier, of . . .

(end of side one of tape)

France, and Danny received the second award from the Secretary-General. You may have seen his picture in the Times?

Q: Yes.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: We were all there. Mr. Labouisse, Lloyd Bailey and myself, and Andy Young, the U. S. Representative, when Danny received the statuette. He made a very graceful little speech, assuring everybody he'd work forever for UNICEF.

Q: Well, that ties in nicely with your story of how he got involved at the beginning.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Yes, he really cares.

(missing text)

Q: One other area that we touched on lightly that I thought you might like to speak about again is the unique character of the national committees, all thirty of them, and their relationships to UNICEF, and how they really represent an ideal, I suppose, of international co-operation and selflessness that really could serve as a model for other organizations in the future?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: They do, indeed. They do, because when the UN Charter talks about We, the People, the people have very little voice on the political level or even on the human rights level, or in the agencies. These are all too technical. But here in this one organization for children, all the people are involved. It has that special provision to involve, to get the people to participate. This is what's so extraordinary.

And there are these thirty committees all over the world, and more forming. Did we talk about - yes, I think we did, about the different nature of them. Some are government committees. I think we spoke about them.

Q: Yes, You said that the one in Canada was quite strong.

Mrs. Pantaleoni: Oh, extremely strong. They're one of the very best, and I think I mentioned that in collecting funds they're ahead of us on a per capita basis. There's a good Japanese committee, and a very effective one for emergencies in the Netherlands. Each one is different. You can't generalize about them, because some of them in the totalitarian countries are, of course government tools, but even so, they reach out to the people. Even in the totalitarian countries, there is popular participation. In the U.S.S.R., people sell greeting cards. It's done by people. It's not done by government officials.

So there's this extraordinary kind of bridge from the people to an inter-governmental organization. And the note I'd really like to end on is the uniqueness of UNICEF itself.

You know, way back - I think in the early fifties - when some of us did see the magic of this whole concept, I remember going to a dinner party and

Q: It's very nice to have those, isn't it?

Mrs. Pantaleoni: It is. And welded together by the great natural love that people have for the vulnerable segment of society, which is the children.

I think it's about time to end this.

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