

Fred Rogers - Transcript:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKy7ljRr0AA>

“*Fred McFeely Rogers* (* 20. März 1928 in Latrobe[1]; † 27. Februar 2003 in Pittsburgh) war ein US-amerikanischer Fernsehmoderator, Musiker, Puppenspieler, Schriftsteller, Produzent und presbyterianischer Pastor. Er erlangte große Bekanntheit als Schöpfer, Showrunner und Moderator der Vorschulfernsehserie Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, die zwischen 1968 und 2001 ausgestrahlt wurde.“ So informiert Wikipedia.

Vorspann im ggstdl. Video: Am 1. Mai 1969 erschien Fred Rogers vor dem Handelsausschuss des US-Senats und bat um Mittel, um das Wachstum eines neuen Konzepts zu unterstützen - des staatlichen öffentlichen Fernsehens.

Transcript:

„Senator Pastore!

This is a philosophical statement and would take about 10 minutes to read. So I'll not do that.

One of the first things that a child learns in a healthy family is trust. And I trust what you have said that you will read this. It's very important to me. I care deeply about children. My first...”

Senator: “Would it make you happy if you read it?”

“I just like to talk about it if it's alright ... My first children's program was on WQED 15 years ago. And its budget was 30 Dollars. Now with the help of the Sears Roebuck Foundation and National Education Television as well as all of the affiliated stations – each station pays to show our program. It's a unique kind of funding in educational television.

With this help now our program has a budget of six thousand dollars. It may sound like quite a difference, but six thousand dollars pays less than for two minutes of cartoons. Two minutes of animated - what I sometimes say - bombardment.

I am very much concerned, as I know you are, about what's being delivered to our children in this country, and I've worked in the field of child development for six years now, trying to understand the inner needs of children.

We deal with such things as – as the inner drama of childhood.

We don't have to bop somebody over the head to make him ... to make drama on the screen.

We deal with such things as getting a haircut, or the feelings about brothers and sisters, and the kind of anger that arises in simple family situations.

And we speak to it constructively ..."

Senator: "How long a program is it?"

"It's a half hour every day. Most channels schedule it in the noon time as well as in the evening. WETA here has scheduled it in the late afternoon."

Senator: "Could we get a copy of this so we can see it? Maybe not today, but I'd like to see the program."

Roger: "I'd like very much for you to see the program."

Senator: "I'd like to see the program itself or any one of them, yes."

"We, we made a hundred programs for EEN, the Eastern Educational Network, and then when the money ran out, people in Boston and Pittsburgh and Chicago all came to the fore and said: we have got to have more of this neighborhood expression of care.

And this is what, this is what I give! I give an expression of care. Every day. To each child. To help him realize that he is unique! I end the program by saying: "You've made this day a special day by just your being you! There's no person in the whole world like you. And I like you just the way you are."

And I feel that if we in public television can only make it clear that feelings are mentionable and manageable, we will have done a great service for mental health.

I think that it's much more dramatic that two men could be working out their feelings of anger. Much more dramatic than showing something of gunfire.

I'm constantly concerned about what our children are seeing. And for fifteen years I have tried in this country and Canada to present what I feel is a meaningful expression of care."

Senator: "You made it?"

"I'm the host and I do all the puppets and I write all the music and I write all the script."

Senator: "I'm supposed to be a pretty tough guy, and this is the first time I've had goose bumps for the last two days."

"Well, I'm grateful, not only for your goose bumps, but for your interest in – in our kind of communication. Could I tell you the words of one of the songs which I feel is very important?"

Senator: "Yes."

"This has to do with the good feeling of control which I feel that the children need to know is there. And it starts out:

'What do you do with the mad that you feel?' And that first line came straight from a child. I work with children doing puppets and in very personal communication with small groups.

*'What do you do with the mad that you feel?
When you feel so mad you could bite?
When the whole wide world seems oh so wrong?
And nothing you do seems very right?*

*What do you do?
Do you punch a bag?
Do you pound some clay or some dough?
Do you round up friends for a game of tag, or see how fast you go?*

*It's great to be able to stop, when you planned a thing that's wrong.
And be able to do something else instead.
And sing this song:*

*I can stop when I want to,
can stop when I wish,
can stop – stop – stop anytime!*

*And what a good feeling to feel like this!
And know that the feeling is really mine!
Know that there's something deep inside
that helps us become what we can.*

*For a girl can be someday a lady
and a boy can be someday a man."*

Senator: "I think it's wonderful. I think it's wonderful. Looks like you just earned the 20 million dollars." (*Applause. Laughter in the audience.*)