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Statement by George A. Carnahan

At a time which I cannot definitely fix, probably 15 to 20 years ago, I was President of the Rochester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which maintained a home on Plymouth Avenue North and cared for from fifty to seventy-five children. The quarters of the Society had become overcrowded and, if a Society was to continue its work, its quarters must be enlarged. I hesitated to open a campaign of general solicitation for funds, but decided it was my duty to make one effort towards satisfying the needs of the Society by request to Mr. Eastman. Accordingly I made an appointment for an interview with him and the following is the episode as I remember it.

I opened the interview by saying to Mr. Eastman that I had come to him because I knew that if he was not interested he would quickly say so and "throw me out". I then stated the needs of the Society. He said without hesitation, "I am interested, what is your plan?" I was obliged to say that I had no detailed plan as yet, but I would return in a few days with such a plan. I did return to him shortly with the best plan we could formulate, and it resulted in a gift from him of about \$45,000, which was most generous in the circumstances. During the discussion with him he asked a question which had not occurred to me before, which was, "If the Society should be dissolved, what would become of its property?" I answered that as it was a membership corporation I thought the property would be distributed among the members of the Society. I suggested that the charter of the Society might be amended so that in the event he stated, the property would pass to some organization or individual whom he might name. He accordingly designated the

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Rochester Orphan Asylum and the charter was amended by application to the court so that in the event of its dissolution all its property would pass to the Rochester Orphan Asylum.

Another episode illustrating Mr. Eastman's generosity, when interested, was that when attending an evening service at St. Paul's Church at a time which I cannot fix, he placed a \$20 bill in the collection plate.

Mr. Eastman was extremely fond of pecan nuts and at some time during the great war they had risen to a great price. One summer evening during that period I was visiting with Mr. Eastman and he referred to the price of Pecan nuts and said he would not buy them because they were not worth the price.

In a conversation on the possession of wealth, the date of which I cannot recall, he said to me, "You have enough to furnish everything you need to eat, drink, wear, and amuse yourself. The only thing I have which the possession of wealth gives me and which you have not, is the power of direction."

Many persons will remember the dancing class which Mr. Eastman organized and which met at his house. It was for advanced pupils and they were not especially graceful at this pastime. He seemed to enjoy participating in it. And again many persons will remember his great interest in giving small picnics for his friends and furnishing the viands himself and himself preparing them to be eaten.

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