

Our Children's Voice

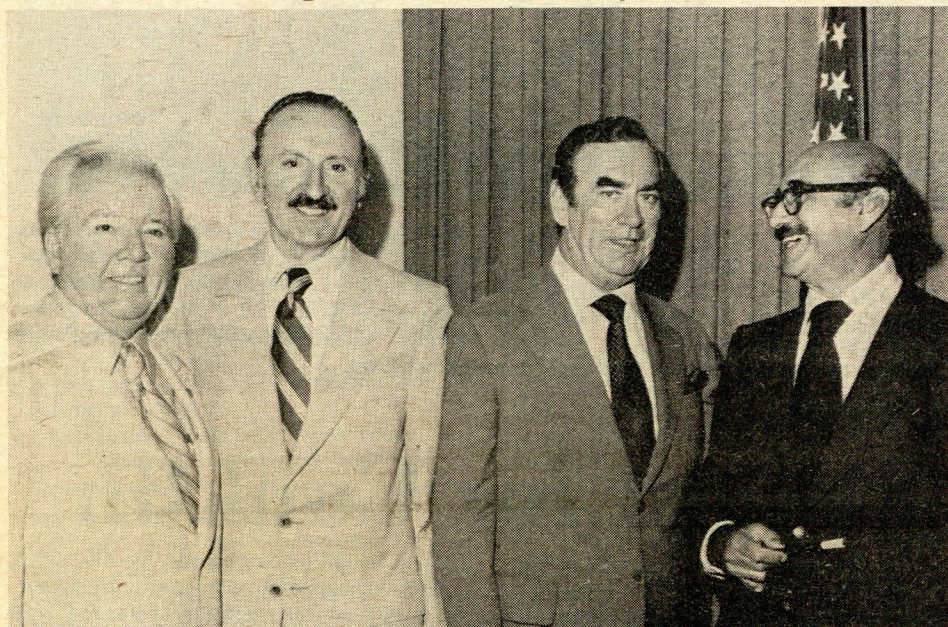
Retarded Children Can Be Helped

Vol. XXIX No. 3

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

September 1977

Mental Retardation separated from Mental Illness in D.M.H. Department of Mental Hygiene Reorganized



A GREAT MOMENT. The pen that did it still gripped in his hand, Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, right, beams happily at the signing of the bill for

a separate Office of Mental Retardation as Senator William T. Conklin and State President George G. Hirsch share the happy moment with Governor Carey.

Sweeping change with reorganization ARC measures included

The Reorganization Plan included a series of measures designed to strengthen services for the mentally retarded, especially in the community. The following bills were passed, and hopefully will be signed by the Governor:

S. 6249A PADAVAN; A. 7955A CONNELLY

A bill to provide that the 100 percent state aid for community services for persons deinstitutionalized up to a certain period of time in the institutions be paid by direct contact with the Department of Mental Hygiene and the community agency delivering the service. This bill is the result of the neglect or inefficiency of local mental health boards to finance these services even though the funds were coming 100 percent from the State. It will no longer be necessary to include these in contracts with the mental health board.

SHELTERED WORKSHOP INDUSTRIAL CONTRACT INCOME MATCHABLE

As part of the reorganization bill, an article was included to make possible greater state aid to non-profit agencies operating sheltered workshops for the mentally retarded.

At present, the income from industrial contracts and all other income from the workshop must be deducted from the top of the contract and is not an operating expense. Under this measure, income realized by a voluntary agency from a contract entered into pursuant to its operation of a sheltered workshop shall be matched dollar for dollar by the state through direct contracts, when "no part of the expenses of such sheltered workshop are claimed through a contract with local government unit and if such workshop is operated in accordance with local or unified services plan."

This may mean a great advantage to a number of agencies depending on how the regulations are written, which are now in the process of being drawn.

PARENTAL LIABILITY REPEALED

One of the measures this Association has been urging for many years was finally passed by the Legislature as part of the package. Under this, parents are no longer financially liable for fees for their minor children in the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene. We do not know

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After months of negotiation between this Association and Robert Mawrer of Senator Conklin's staff on one hand and Tom Coughin, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene and Jim Introne of the Governor's staff on the other, a bill was finally evolved to reorganize the Department of Mental Hygiene, separating mental retardation from mental illness, alcoholism, and substance abuse.

There were three different drafts of this measure before the final version was finally agreed upon and introduced by Senators Padavan, Conklin and Volker speaking for mental illness, mental retardation, and alcoholism in the Senate.

The final version has little resemblance to the version first presented by the Governor to which this Association and many others objected very strongly. The original version, in fact, put the power into the "congregate" hands of the three separate commissioners, mental retardation and developmental disabilities, mental illness and alcoholism and substance abuse taking only the form of separate departments. This was christened by everyone "The Trolka". The final version eliminated this shared responsibility and, in fact, created separate departments or offices in the Mental Hygiene Law with separate commissioners.

The major difference between this bill and the Conklin-Kremer bill is, that under the Conklin-Kremer bill, the Office of Mental Retardation was placed out of the Mental Hygiene Law in the Executive Department; in this bill it remains in the Mental Hygiene Law. As in the Conklin-Kremer bill, this measure calls for a recodification of the Mental Hygiene Law by the Legislature and "establishing separate laws for mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and alcoholism and substance abuse."

It is interesting to note the original reorganization plan called for the creation of an Office of Developmental Disabilities. The final version changes this to the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

The Act takes effect on April 1, 1978.

In addition, a number of other measures were passed by both Houses as part of the Governor's plan and also the Association's to strengthen some services for the mentally retarded. Unfortunately, however, all suggestions of this Association to strengthen services for the 97 percent of the mentally retarded in the community were rejected and, in effect, the changes made strengthen services for the institutionalized and deinstitutionalized population.

In a telegram to Senators Conklin and others the Association stated, "while

supporting the plan, it was greatly disappointed the Governor's plan still does little for the 97 percent of the mentally retarded in the community."

"The bill at least," states the telegram, "creates the possibility of an agency dealing with the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled, separate from the irrelevant considerations of the other disabilities in the Mental Hygiene Law."

A statement issued by Senator William T. Conklin in support of the bill in part states, "The Department of Mental Hygiene reorganization the Legislature is about to consider is an improvement over the proposal forwarded to the Legislature a few months ago by the Governor. Five months of negotiations among all concerned about the welfare of the mentally handicapped have produced a series of bills to create three substantially independent agencies to administer to the differing needs of the mentally ill, the mentally retarded, the alcoholic and the drug abuser."

"These bills present an opportunity," continues the statement, "for change in the State's delivery system of services to the mentally retarded, an objective I have worked toward for more than 15 years." In commenting on the rest of the program, discussed elsewhere in this issue, Senator Conklin stated, "Other advantages include authorization for direct provision of services by the Office of Mental Retardation through voluntary agencies, greater State participation in financially hard-pressed sheltered workshop programs, end of parental liability for cost of care and treatment of disabled children served by the Department, the base for expansion of day care programs for all the mentally handicapped, and provision for recodification of the law following a year's experience under the new system."

"Missing from these changes in the State's bureaucracy, however, is the

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President's Message

This year has been full of both accomplishments and frustrations, some of which have been finally alleviated with the signing of the legislation by Governor Carey creating a separate Office of Mental Retardation. The writer was a guest, privileged to attend the ceremony, where the Governor handed him a pen, symbolic of the signing of the document. The pen has a very sharp point. I hope to keep it nearby to help prod the new Office to fulfill the promises for which this legislation was intended.

Among the more positive things is the proliferation of Community Residences throughout the State, still growing in number. We have also continued our efforts to see that our Chapters are operating on a fiscally sound basis and that our Chapter officers and Boards are fully aware of their responsibilities. We look forward to our next convention where we will work with our Executive Directors from throughout the State and our State officers toward a more meaningful understanding of their respective roles in planning, financing and operating the various Chapters and services entrusted to their care.

There has also been much dialogue between the special committee appointed by your President and representatives of the NARC including their President and

Vice Presidents, to explore the feasibility of joining the National Association. I have been prodded by many Chapters who feel we ought to join a National Association and my answer to them is that we have this committee. It will bring a full report to the next convention on the feasibility, cost and desirability of affiliation. I am positive our State Association and the National Association are vitally interested in promoting the welfare of all the retarded and I feel the report given by the committee will be a fair one. It will be up to the convention and delegates to determine the course of action to be taken.

Our staff, Jerry Weingold, John Bertrand and Geraldine Sherwood, have been going all out to keep our Chapters apprised of latest developments affecting their funding and operations, of counseling and advice on administrative matters, Chapter visitations and evaluation of Chapter operations where requested.

I wish to congratulate Commissioner Tom Coughlin of the Department of Mental Retardation on his appointment, and Dr. Don Traunstein, as a Deputy Commissioner for Community Services. Dr. Traunstein has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Albany County Chapter.

George G. Hirsch

Legislation and the community retarded

If anything, legislation other than the reorganization bill passed by the 1977 Legislature, demonstrated once more that neither the Governor nor the Legislature understands the dynamics of mental retardation.

Examination of the articles in this issue points out only too clearly that almost all the legislation passed has been to better the lot of the institutionalized mentally retarded or to make it easier for the Department of Mental Hygiene to deinstitutionalize such persons.

Except for the very iffy part about sheltered workshop income being matchable, there isn't a single piece of legislation which improves the ability of the community agency to deliver services to the 97 per cent of the mentally retarded in the community.

The failure to increase state aid for such community services, the failure to pass a bill mandating education from the age of 3, the failure to aid the parents to keep their children at home, the failure to provide transportation for those over 21 to rehabilitation facilities, and the almost mindless cut in rehabilitation funds, restored only after massive demonstration by the handicapped, shows either an indifference to the lot of the mentally retarded in the community or a lack of understanding where people live and what their needs are.

We cannot deny that some progress has been made this year, probably much more than in other years in this system of delivery of services, but it is out of balance, does nothing to redress the inequities of mental health boards appropriating 80 per cent of community funds to mental illness, as against 16 percent to mental retardation; it does nothing to make Albany County put up some of its county money, or Chemung County, or Erie County more than 5 per cent, or New York City more than a fraction of its total expenditures. It does nothing to make the parents of children who have kept them at home to be a less than second class citizen.

It is sad to have to write this kind of an editorial, but the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Governor's office are polarizing the state in their blind insistence on "deinstitutionalization", the use of a slogan name for what should be a carefully thought out total program.

A halt must be called to this. This Association must lend every effort to such mass demonstrations as we had in June to force the Legislature and the Governor to do what is right, to understand what should be evident, and to stop mouthing slogans as if they are programs.

A forward step

A new bill reorganizing the Department of Mental Hygiene, although keeping mental retardation in the Mental Hygiene Law, is a considerable step forward in the process of separating mental retardation from mental illness, alcoholism and drug abuse.

Only time and the administration of the law will tell whether mental retardation can, indeed, operate as an independent, identifiable entity in the Mental Hygiene Law.

Certainly this bill is a demonstration that the art of legislation is the art of compromise. We must, however, view this

as a considerable victory for the principle of separation with distinct possibilities for further advances in services for the mentally retarded and other developmental disabilities.

We pledge our support towards the success of this venture, but in no way relinquish our efforts to create that network of services which does not yet exist.

Perhaps the recodification will give us that answer. In this, this Association, as it was in the first recodification, must be heavily and officially involved. And to this end we offer our services.



State Senator William T. Conklin (left) of Brooklyn, receives the annual Humanitarian Award of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children at its 28th anniversary dinner, and this ceramic plaque created by retarded children. Sharing the happy occasion are singer-actress Kitty Carlisle Hart, chairman of the New York State Council on the Arts, who served as m.c., and James P. Murphy, AHRC president. More than 1,000 persons attended the dinner held at the Americana Hotel.

Award for Conklin

State Senator William T. Conklin, of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, received the annual Humanitarian Award of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children at its 28th Anniversary Dinner at the Americana Hotel in New York City.

Singing star and well-known TV personality Kitty Carlisle Hart, chairman of the New York State Council on the Arts, was mistress of ceremonies at the dinner, attended by more than 1,000 members and friends of the Association.

The award to Conklin, Deputy Majority Leader of the State Senate, was presented by James P. Murphy, Association president, and executive vice president of the New York State Bankers Association.

Sen. Conklin was honored for his many efforts as legislator and community leader in behalf of the mentally retarded and handicapped of all ages. He has authored State laws creating community hostel facilities for the retarded as alternatives to institutionalization, and is credited with the first Phenylketonuria (PKU) Newborn Screening Law in the nation. He has been a member of the Joint Legislative Committees on Problems of the Aging and Child Care Needs, and chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental and Physical Handicaps.

Recipients of the AHRC Humanitarian Award in previous years have included Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Eunice Shriver and the late Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Our Children's Voice

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NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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Editor: Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director

Assistant Editor: John Bertrand

Editorial Assistant: Adele Osinski

President: George G. Hirsch

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Please address all inquiries to:

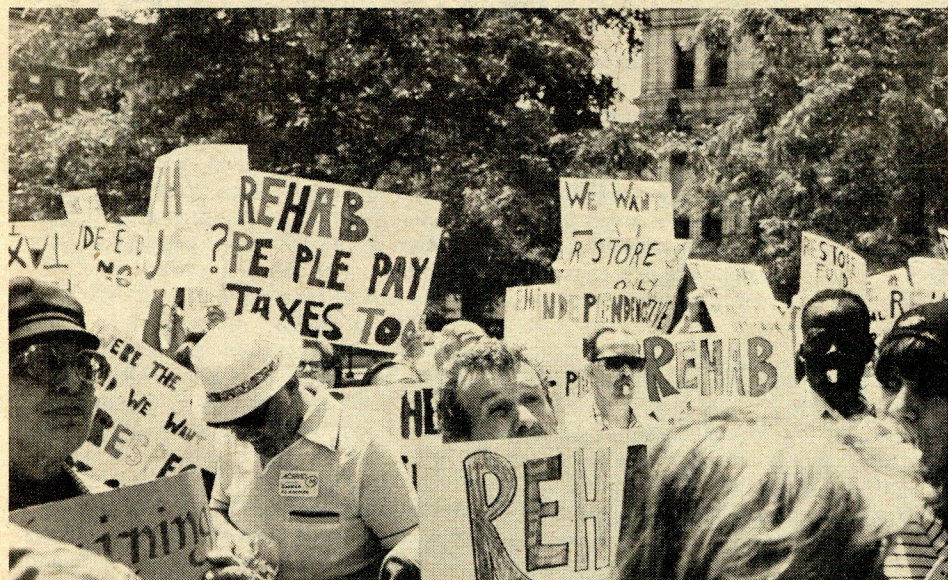
New York State Association for Retarded Children

175 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10010

212-674-1520

Handicapped revolt against rehab cuts



Some of the thousands who attended Albany protest. More pictures on Page 18.

Bill to delay residences passed

Following the lead of California, Senator Conklin and Assemblyman Gottfried introduced a bill that would prevent municipalities from passing or enforcing any ordinance limiting the use of any property for community residences for the mentally retarded.

Not content with this, those who would lump mental retardation and mental illness together then introduced legislation to enlarge this to include residences for the mentally ill as well (Assemblyman McCabe). This bill was considered by the Mental Hygiene Committee late in the session (Assemblywoman Connelly, Chairman) and was killed primarily through the opposition of Assemblyman Wertz of Suffolk, considered somewhat of an authority on mental health because of his previous connection with the Mental Health Information Service.

When the Conklin-Gottfried bill then came up before the same Committee, it was killed because they said it was too limited, dealing with mental retardation only.

Because of this Catch 22 situation, we are still relegated to the courts where we

have been consistently victorious in defeating these zoning restrictions.

Not content with killing the zoning bill, a bill was introduced by Assemblyman Finnerman and Senator Pisani of Westchester under which notice by the voluntary agency or the Department of Mental Hygiene must be given to the municipality of its intention to open a community residence. The municipality then has 90 days in which to offer 3 alternate sites. At the end of that time, the Commissioner, if not satisfied with any of these sites, can then proceed with the site originally selected, but the community may ask for 90 days more.

This is a bad bill, merely delaying the opening of such community residences for 90 days and serving no real purpose. Furthermore, it does not prevent a challenge to the choice of the Commissioner or the voluntary agency because of zoning restrictions.

We have urged the Governor to veto this bill as unnecessary and a meaningless delay of the process of creating community residences for the mentally retarded and others.

Education assured for deinstitutionalized

A bill signed by Governor Carey, (Chapter 47 of the Laws of 1977) provides that children from the institutions of the Department of Mental Hygiene, there before July 1, 1977 and placed in family

D.M.H. Reorganized

Continued from Page 1

fullest commitment by the Governor and the Legislature to improve conditions for the mentally retarded wherever they reside in the State. This reorganization is but a promise for change for the non-institutionalized mentally retarded and developmentally disabled of our state."

The Association and Senator Conklin join in stating that the effects of this reorganization will depend on the good faith of the Governor and the Legislature "to support efforts to restructure the entire system — State, local and voluntary programs."

On balance, This must be considered a "notable victory."

care etc., shall be admitted to the schools in the school district in which the family care home or institution is located. The Education Department is authorized to reimburse each school district for the direct cost of such services if such costs shall not be otherwise aidable or reimbursable.

Children who reside in institutions, for whom the Department of Mental Hygiene has assumed responsibility for support and maintenance after July 1st 1977 and thereafter placed in family care homes, will also be admitted to the schools of the school district of the family care home. In that case, however, the school district in which the child resided at the time the Department of Mental Hygiene assumed responsibility support shall reimburse the Education Department for its expenditure on behalf of such child in an amount equal to the school district's basic contribution.

This eliminates once and for all the ambiguity about who is going to pay for the education of such children.

In a mass protest on the steps of the capital in Albany, more than 2000 handicapped assembled to protest the cuts in the rehabilitation appropriation.

A large number of the handicapped were in wheel chairs. They came from the ARC's, United Cerebral Palsy and other agencies expressing the fear that the \$3.6 million slash by the state in funds for their rehabilitation will halt or sharply reduce services they are receiving and make it impossible for them to become independent.

Addressing the assemblage, Jerry Weingold, executive director of the New York State Association stated that the cut back will cause non-profit agencies to close their doors; that this was a mindless cut that would be counter productive, making dependents of those who should become independent or quasi-independent.

Our Broome County Chapter stated this would mean a loss of \$45,000 and ten staff positions. Our Poughkeepsie workshop suspended admissions to the workshop of the severely handicapped, the first curb of admissions since the facility opened in 1971.

In a callous indifference to the plight of these people, OVR officials advised our Poughkeepsie people to cut services to the profoundly retarded and charge fees to the parents of the patients. "I believe that this is contrary to the Federal guidelines," said Charles Weatherford, Jr., executive director of the Dutchess County Chapter of the ARC, "and OVR should be investigated."

PROTEST AWAKENS CONSCIENCE OF LEGISLATURE

As a result of the protest, the conscience of the Legislature was awakened. Governor Carey sent his Budget Director, Peter Goldmark, to address the assemblage and he promised them the cuts would be restored.

In the Supplemental Budget, \$3.1 million was restored and a promise was made that if OVR runs out of funds by January 1, 1978 it can come to the Legislature for a deficiency appropriation.

The restoration of funds will mean the long-term sheltered employment can continue at the same rate of \$1000 and that case services will not be cut back.

COMMON CAUSE DEMANDS MADE

In addition to this, the Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, the ARC and United Cerebral Palsy have met in a common cause to present demands to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, on the long-range program for employment of several handicapped. These included: to pay the agencies, not the \$1000 they are now paying, but the \$1500 authorized in the law, that there should not be a waiting period of a year and a year and one-half between the end of training and the beginning of the long-range reimbursement program; that work not be tied in with industrial production but could be training in maintenance, porter work, etc.

These demands were made to OVR Commissioner Adrian Levy at a meeting in New York and will be presented to the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents.

In a statement, Arthur J. Kremer, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, (D) Nassau, said, "Every dollar necessary to maintain these programs will be found and will be recommended for restoration in the supplemental budget . . . We will not adjourn the present session of the Legislature without improving this problem that was not caused by the Legislature."

The short fall in funds is blamed by Commissioner Levy on the failure of the agencies to report the exact number of people involved, but this, the agencies say, is a function of the Department and cannot be blamed on them.

10 hostels underway

Architectural designs for 10 hostels have begun. The Mid-Hudson hostel project includes sites in Middletown, Monticello, Kingston, Spring Valley, and Putnam County. According to the Department of Mental Hygiene, the Middletown and Monticello projects should be under construction now. All identified sites are planned to be under construction by this fall. Additional sites for the Mid-Hudson hostel project will be located in Northern Westchester County and in Dutchess County.

Quality Control group established

Manual of patient rights enacted

The Legislature, again showing its distrust even of the reorganized Department of Mental Hygiene, passed a bill creating a Commission on Quality Control for the Care of the Mentally Disabled, another example of confusion between mental retardation and mental illness. This Commission consists of three persons appointed by the Governor, all salaried positions and probably costing about a million dollars. In the same bill, a Board of Visitors Advisory Council and a Mental Hygiene Medical Review Board are created.

In the opinion of this Association, this measure creates another bureaucracy of oversight without having given the reorganization of the Department a chance for to see how its operation improves the quality of care to the patients and residents.

In another move to strengthen the rights

of the patients, the Governor signed a bill (Chapter 16 of the Laws of 1977) to order the Commissioner (which Commissioner?) after a public hearing, and no later than April 1, 1978 to prepare a manual which details the rights of patients - residents and others who are certified and admitted to schools or hospitals of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

"Such manual," says the law, "shall be written in clear, concise and easily understandable language, including translation into appropriate language in English as is determined necessary by the Commissioner."

Upon admission, and throughout the hospitalization of patients in such schools or hospitals, each facility shall make available to such patients and persons authorized to act on their behalf a description of available education and-or a rehabilitation program and services.

Follow up on President's Another letter to M.H. Commission Rosalynn Carter

In the previous issue of OCV, a letter from Mr. Weingold to Mrs. Carter urged that the President's Commission on Mental Health not subsume mental retardation under that general heading.

After several months, a reply came from Mrs. Carter's secretary acknowledging the letter, and that was that. Protests were also launched by the AAMD and others against this operation, but to no avail. The Commission has been set up with the Chairmanship of Thomas Bryant, M.D. (although the actual Chairperson will be Mrs. Carter). Dr. Bryant comes to the Commission from the presidency of the Drug Abuse Council in Georgia and will be supported by staff of personnel "borrowed" from HEW, except for his special assistant, Mary Ann Orlando, who also comes from the Drug Abuse Council.

Nineteen individuals were selected by a small Ad Hoc Committee chaired by John Gardner, Chairman of Common Cause from "over 1,000 candidates," the White House said, to serve on the Commission with Bryant. Not one name on here is recognizable in the field of mental retardation, except that of Dr. George Tarjan, who, of course, appears on every committee.

Subsequently, on June 16, Task Panels composed of so-called experts in the field of mental health, who volunteered their time were formed by the Mental Health Commission. These panels include Task Panels and Boundaries: Mental Health Problems, Scope and Boundaries: Sub-Panel: Organization of Community Health Centers Program; Sub-Panel: Planning and Review Mechanisms; Sub-Panel: Access and Barriers to Care; Sub-Panel: De-institutionalization, Rehabilitation, Long-Term Care; Manpower and Personnel; Research Issues, Prevention; Legal and Ethical Issues; Pro-Mental Health; Mental Health Needs of Migrants; Mental Health in the Family; Special Populations — Minorities, Women and Physically Handicapped; and Community Support Systems. All of these have members on them.

The panels on alcohol and drug abuse, arts therapy and mental retardation have no members appointed as yet. A careful examination of the members from New York State on these various panels reveals no name known to anyone in our field.

In a letter dated June 9, 1977, Margaret J. Giannini, Director of Mental Retardation Institute and President of the AAMD writes, "Dear Jerry: Looked through the interesting article you sent me on the President's Commission of Mental Health and Task Panels. The only name I know is Jay Goldsmith's (Mental Health, not Mental Retardation)!"

And that's where we stand with the Carter Commission.

Response to Carter letter received

A response to the letter written by Joseph Weingold Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children to Mrs. Rosalynn Carter was received by Weingold. The full text of the letter was printed in the last issue of Our Children's Voice. To summarize, Weingold took issue with the recommendation of Dr. Peter Bourne of the President's Transition team who recommended that the primary focus of the commission be on mental health, including specifically, mental retardation. This appears to be a demonstration of the clear dominance by psychiatry of mental retardation. It is another instance of the confusion of mental illness with mental retardation. He wrote, "Let us, once and for all, understand what we must do for the mentally retarded is educational and treatment in nature. Psychiatry, although it may have some place in this picture, is by no means anywhere near the dominant factor. The mental health clinics of this country do not

Patricia S. Sherman, President of the Montgomery County Chapter, New York State ARC, recently wrote a letter to Mrs. Rosalynn Carter. It began with a thank you for a telegram sent by Mrs. Carter and the President to the Montgomery County Chapter and ended with an explanation of Mrs. Sherman's deep concern regarding the social security policy which considers wages earned by handicapped workers as, "unearned" income:

I would like to begin this letter by formally thanking you and the President for the telegram you sent our Chapter wishing success in our building fund effort. The recognition was deeply appreciated.

However, I am writing you, Mrs. Carter,

deal with the mentally retarded. In fact, their intake policy, for the most part, prohibits this. What then are we doing, but succumbing to old ideas and old cliches."

The letter from the White House was written over the signature of Kathryn E. Cade, Director of Projects for Rosalynn Carter:

Dear Mr. Weingold:

Mrs. Carter has asked me to respond to your recent letter. She appreciates your sharing with her your concerns regarding the need to consider the problems of mental retardation separately from those of mental illness.

As planning for her Commission continues, we shall give careful consideration to your observations.

I can assure you that we are receiving input from a broad variety of professionals in the fields of mental health and mental retardation regarding the Commission's activities.

Thank you for your interest.

out of a serious concern for an injustice perpetrated on the mentally retarded which I believe your husband's Administration must address. It deals with a Health, Education and Welfare ruling regarding Supplemental Security Income payments which seriously impair the self-esteem of the mentally retarded and the efficacy of rehabilitation programs.

The Social Security Administration has adopted a policy which states wages earned by handicapped workers in a work activity center or partaking in a rehabilitation training program are "unearned" income. Subsequently, they are allowed to keep only \$20 a month (of their wages.) Previously, when their wages were classified as "earned income" they could retain \$65 a month. For every \$2 they earned over this \$65, S.S.I. would allow them to keep \$1.

My daughter makes approximately \$30 a week in our local ARC sheltered workshop-Liberty House Training Center. Under this new state policy, my daughter would now work more than three weeks of every month for nothing. She takes pride in her paycheck and she earns every penny. Her wages are not subsidized, they are honestly earned. Watching my daughter at her job would convince everyone that she was productively employed. The state should be happy the handicapped have this opportunity for sheltered employment and not penalize them. I cannot imagine how the state can take away her incentive to work, and her dignity by saying she isn't really working and earning her wages.

On behalf of the handicapped workers in Montgomery County and in every county, please look into this injustice. Even our local Social Security office agrees with us that the policy is ridiculous. They state, however, that it is a ruling out of Washington.

Our local Association, Mrs. Carter, believes in the fairness of your husband and his Administration. I cannot imagine how a serious investigation of this issue would not lead to its overruling. Just because an individual is handicapped does not mean that he or she cannot truly earn a salary and enjoy the dignity of a job as everyone else. My daughter and all handicapped workers will rely on the fairness of your review of this issue. They only ask for what is rightfully theirs, the fruit of their labor.

SSI changes urged

Speaking on behalf of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, its 58 Chapters, and its 32,000 members, Joseph T. Weingold Executive Director of the state association wrote to Congressman Charles B. Rangel, a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, urging his support of H.R. 1945 and H.R. 1946. H.R. 1946 eliminates the one-third reduction in SSI benefits when a recipient is living in another person's household. Stating the present deduction really makes little sense, especially in poor families, Weingold noted the amount should be increased to enable a handicapped person to contribute toward household expenses.

The Congressman's response indicated his support. He indicated he feels the practice of reducing benefits to handicapped people who live with their families unwise. He said we should be encouraging those who wish to care for their relatives instead of breaking up families. The present policy of reducing benefits merely encourages those who are unable to care for themselves to enter state homes. In so doing, the cost of providing services is vastly increased to taxpayer. He pledged he will continue to support legislation to promote the interests of the handicapped.

How silly can

Labor Dept. get?

The Wage and Hours Division of the Department of Labor issued proposed regulations pertaining to the employment of "patient workers" in hospitals and institutions (which includes facilities for developmentally disabled persons). Because of the way the proposed regulations are worded they could have impact on private residential facilities for the mentally retarded.

One of the stipulations is that the home should resemble an ordinary home in that it is located in the community and has no more than six residents. That would mean homes serving more than six persons be required to pay residents per share for household chores.

Residents should spend no more than six hours per week engaged in such activities and residents should have an opportunity to practice these independent living skills outside the group home. The question this raises is: should residents of homes serving six or fewer restrict an individual's time involved in chores to six hours per week? And should residents only be permitted to share household chores if they can be expected to move to independent living? Obviously these restrictions would make no sense whatever in a community residence for the mentally retarded. How silly can the Labor Department get?

White House conference ends in disillusionment

Delegates to the first White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, who came to Washington hoping to adopt a national agenda of issues that concern the disabled, left for home, many of them angry, disillusioned and wondering what had been accomplished.

The tight structure of the conference, which gave the 700 delegates 3,500 issues to discuss, left them little room to reshape those issues and led to complaints of paternalism.

The conference was established by law to give handicapped persons an opportunity to discuss national issues, educate the public about their problems and set priorities for matters to be dealt with by the Congress and the President.

The program was organized by the handicapped. Dr. Henry Viscardi, chairman of the conference, has artificial legs; Jack Smith, the executive director,

and Louis Rigdon, the general counsel, need wheelchairs.

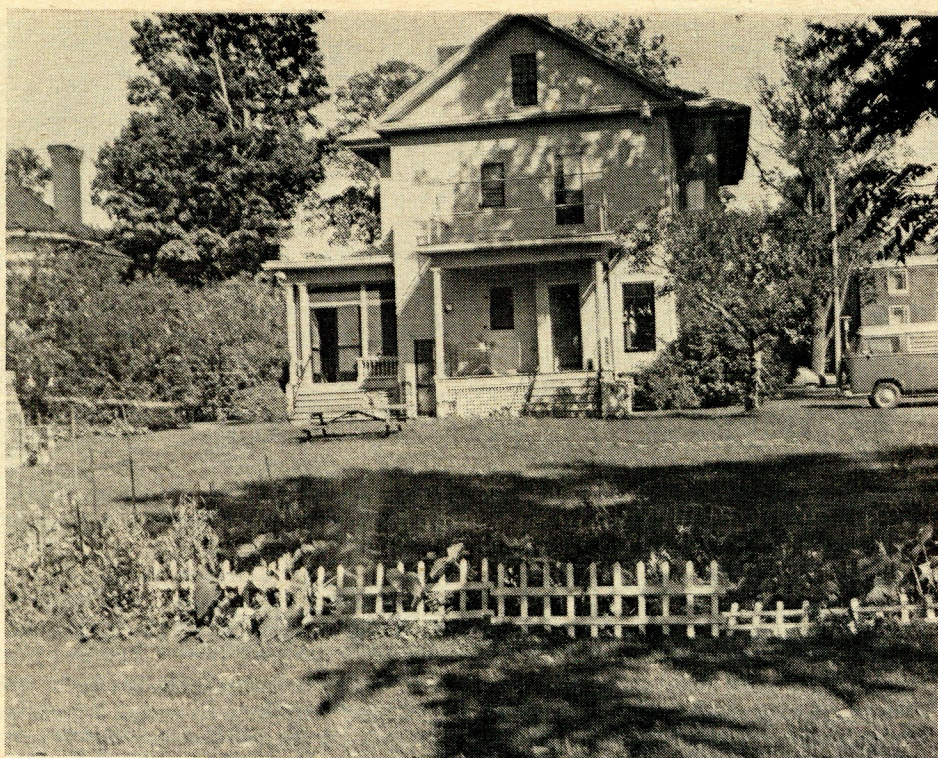
Half the delegates had to be disabled persons, one-quarter had to be relatives of handicapped persons, and one-quarter had to be professionals who provided services to the disabled. Since many delegates fit in all three categories, about 86 percent of them were handicapped.

President Carter and Bert Lance, the director of the Office of Management and Budget appeared before the conference.

The delegates were given eight books of computerized ballots with which to "prioritize" issues ranging from whether to seek a constitutional amendment extending civil rights guarantees to the disabled, to whether skills required to be a court stenographer are discriminatory.

It was the observation of this association, prior to the conference, that mental retardation was conspicuously unrepresented in the New York delegation.

**Be where the action is
Be at Grossinger's
October 13-16**



Jefferson opens group home for children

Harold Hopkins, Executive Director of the Jefferson County Association for Retarded Children announced the opening on July 7, 1977 of the first Group Home for Children outside of New York City. Mr. Hopkins stated this was necessitated by the fact that last October there were eight youngsters who were enrolled in the school program who the parents could no longer care for due to their hyperactivity and other compounding medical problems. Consequently, the only alternative at that time was admission to Sunmount Developmental Center. The Board of Directors and the staff felt that this was not the only alternative. Consequently, a Children's Hostel was opened in an attempt to meet the needs of these eight youngsters. Originally, Mr. Hopkins stated that SSI people had stated that the children were eligible for the adult rate of \$386.70. However, once the hostel was opened and the children placed there, the rate was changed from \$386.70 to \$175.00 per child. Mr. Hopkins stated this change placed an extreme financial hardship on this agency. Immediately, with the change of the SSI payments, the Jefferson County Association for Retarded Children pursued the Group Home for Children route through the Board of Social Welfare. This

proved to be an extremely laborious task and there were really no guidelines set up for group homes outside of New York City. However, with the aide of the Department of Mental Retardation, Cora Hoffman, Kevin Travis, Bob Norris, and Peter Knauss along with Carl Valentine from the State Department of Social Services, and the local Social Services Commissioner, S. Jean Wagoner, the group home became a reality.

The Jefferson County Association for Retarded Children currently runs eight hostels for adults, the Group Home for Children, two workshops with a combined population of about 375 clients, psychiatric day treatment program with 55 clients, and the school and pre-school program with 90 youngsters. Mr. Hopkins stated they have recently purchased a 60,000 sq. ft. building with 65 acres of land which will become an Intermediate Care Facility for the mentally retarded. The opening date of this new program is scheduled for early spring. Mr. Hopkins stated that should anyone else wish to open a Group Home for Children that they should contact him and learn from his experiences, which should be helpful in cutting through the majority of the red tape.

"But not near me"

Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman (R-NY) got in the act of writing on behalf of neighbors who are opposing a three family house in Brooklyn that is being considered for use as a group home for retarded young adults. Writing to the Department of Mental Hygiene, Representative Holtzman said, "While I understand and sympathize with your policy of moving as many mental patients as possible from large institutions back to the community, I urge to remove this property from consideration."

She cited a great and well organized community opposition as a reason for this request. She also called the attention of the department to the fact that the block is "one of the most attractive blocks of Ocean Avenue and one of the few remaining ones still zoned for one and two family homes." She passed along the information that the community strongly feels the use for which the home is intended will bring down property values in a neighborhood struggling to maintain stability.

On behalf of her "concerned constituents", she questioned the asking price of the property and also stated the city would lose approximately \$2,000 in taxes a

year if the house was used as a community residence. She also indicated she had information that the house has a frame structure and such facilities may not be placed in a frame structure. An interesting comment was that she seemed quite certain that a building similar in size could be obtained at another location at half the price.

The letter eventually reached Barbara Blum, Assistant Commissioner of the State of New York Department of Mental Hygiene. She made it clear to Representative Holtzman that the Willowbrook Consent Judgment mandates the creation of community-based homes in the least restrictive and most normalizing settings possible. This means efforts will be focused on neighborhoods with one and two family homes. She referred to studies by real estate authorities which have shown that real property values are not affected in any way by the creation of homes for handicapped persons. Representative Holtzman was invited to discuss the nature of the metropolitan placement project in order to broaden her understanding and, hopefully, enlist her support.

First in a series

Legislative process in New York State

A LAW IS BORN

The New York State Legislature is composed of two houses, the Senate and the Assembly. The Assembly consists of 150 Assemblymen, who are elected every two years. The presiding officer of the Assembly is the Speaker, who is elected by the members. First, in party caucus, the two major parties choose their nominee for Speaker. In general session, the nominee of the majority is then elected Speaker. The Speaker appoints a Majority Leader, other majority officers (such as Deputy Majority Leader, Assistant Majority Leader and Majority Whip), all committee chairmen and committee members.

The Minority Leader is usually the minority party's nominee for Speaker, and he appoints assistant leaders in the same manner as the majority party. He also makes recommendations on minority members' appointments to committees.

The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate, which consists of 60 Senators also elected for two-year terms. Executive authority is voted in the Majority Leader who is also Temporary President and presides in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor.

With limited exceptions, a legislative measure, or bill, is introduced by a Senator or Assemblyman, but the idea behind it can be initiated by a private citizen, an organization, a professional association, the officials of a government, an individual legislator, a legislative committee, or the Governor.

Much program legislation is proposed by the Governor or one of the Executive departments or agencies.

Bills may be introduced in either or both houses and members may prefile them beginning November 15, for formal introduction in January, or introduce them during the annual session. Many bills are co-sponsored by a Senator and Assemblyman, although co-sponsorship is not necessary.

Assembly rules require that bills must be accompanied by an introducer's memorandum explaining the purpose of the bill. Once introduced, a bill receives a number, is printed, and assigned to one of 26 standing committees.

HOW TO FIND THE STATUS OF ANY BILL

A local phone call to 1-800-342-9860 will put you on a tie line directly into our Senate Chamber, where a clerk works at computer that contains up-to-the-second information on whether a bill is in committee, is on the Senate floor, has been passed, or has been signed into law. The data covers Senate and Assembly bills.

HOW TO GET COPIES OF BILLS

You can get a copy of any bill by writing to the Senate Superintendent of Documents, Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12224, or calling (518) 472-7520. It will help if you supply the print number of the bill, or at least the title of the bill.

To be continued in the next issue of OCV.

Nassau Rose Ball raises \$200,000

The Nassau Association for Help of Retarded Children was a lot richer as thousands of AHRC members and their friends helped to make the 1977 Rose Ball and Journal an outstanding success — approximately \$200,000.00 was raised for the AHRC program. Louis Silver and Gertrude Merinoff again served as chairmen of the Ball along with John Cullen, Journal chairman.

The Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton, decorated in a red and white motif, provided the setting for this year's gala held on June 18th. Helen Kaplan, Chapter Executive Director, keynoted the evening in the presentation of the 1977 Humanitarian Award which was given this year to the attendees at the Ball and other supporters who have been the mainstay of this important annual event. Mrs. Kaplan, in her brief speech, reminded the audience of the parable of The Good Samaritan from the Book of St. Luke and cautioned that even more dedication would be required in the coming months.

Guests on the dais included County Executive Ralph G. Caso; New York State Department of Mental Hygiene Deputy Commissioner Thomas A. Coughlin; Congressman Lester Wolff; ARC State President George Hirsch; Dr. Hagop S. Mashikian, Director Suffolk State Developmental Center; Commissioner Isidore Shapiro, Nassau County Depart-

ment of Mental Health; Judge Alexander Vitale, Judge Leo F. McGinity, Joseph Weingold, ARC State Executive Director; and Gertrude Merinoff and Louis Silver, Rose Ball Co-Chairmen.

The evening began with a cocktail reception in the Grand Ballroom foyer followed by dinner served to the accompaniment of stringed music. Raffle drawings were held and featured a \$2,000.00 cash top prize and entertainment continued throughout the evening.

Special messages were received from Rosalynn Carter and Governor Hugh Carey. In her message from the White House, the First Lady cited the Nassau AHRC as "among the first to recognize the potential of retarded children and deal with it in a creative and concerted way." She commended the "hard work and dedication" of the professionals and volunteers. Governor Carey said that the Nassau AHRC "has become a prime example of the kind of services that should be available to all mentally retarded citizens."

Long-time AHRC advisory board member and dais guest, County Executive Ralph Caso, pointed out that the "pride we in Nassau County have in AHRC is but a reflection of the group's hard work and dedication." He expressed his "deep appreciation and gratitude" on behalf of the county.



Say "aahh"

Early infant programs exciting



Infant in early intervention program — Clinton County.

More and more chapters are engaging in early infant intervention programs to aid infants from birth to age 3.

Teams of consultants, including pediatricians, psychologists, physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and teachers work together to design a developmental program for each child with emphasis placed on parent instruction to allow the parents to carry out specific activities in the home.

As our Clinton County Chapter writes, "parents are the best teachers."

The first picture is from the program in Clinton County; the second is from an unidentified chapter which is obviously doing something too.

In-service teacher training successful

Last April, at the Fallsview Hotel in Ellenville, more than 250 teachers and teacher aides participated in In-Service Training for teachers of high institution risk, severely mentally disabled, multiple handicapped children.

This was the 7th such In-Service Training Program made possible through funding under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary School Education Act through the State Department of Education.

There were three major sessions. The first was for the severely disabled, multiple handicapped child: A Focus on School and Home Management; the second on the severely disabled multiple handicapped cerebral palsy child: A Focus on Therapeutic Management in the

Classroom; and finally the severely disabled emotionally disturbed child: A Focus on Autism — with Approaches to Classroom Education Language Development and Behavior Modification.

More than 50 applicants could not be enrolled because of the lack of space. Under the direction of Robert Sansone, Executive Director of Suffolk Co. Chapter who has been directing these programs from their inception, 9 instructors and 4 time, were formed by the Mental Health program.

Over the period of the years of In-Service Training, almost 1500 teachers and teacher aides have received this training and are making, we hope, better programs for the instructional programs of the ARC's and the other agencies who participated.

West Seneca

An active group

In response to our request for O.C.V. news, the West Seneca Developmental Center Chapter came up with 7 items. We would like to point with special pride to this very active and alive institution chapter of our association.

1. The Chapter has purchased 2 bowling machines and 1 pinball machine for recreational purposes for the adult population on grounds at the institution. These have been installed in the Canteen in Building 16.

2. The institution has a marvelous 20 member chorus (residents) — we purchased outfits for them so they look like the class act that they are.

3. West Seneca Developmental Center has the largest Foster Grandparent program in the whole state. Of the 102 Foster grandparents, 62 are paid up supportive members of this chapter. We work closely with them and they complained to us that they had no rocking chairs to rock the children in — who else but the grandparents would think of this? We recently purchased 6 rockers for them. Please do not misunderstand. This chapter knows enough **not** to supply anything we feel D.M.H. is responsible for and we are very cautious in making judgments before we spend money. The above purchases were considered "extras." We are also

supplying the Grandparents some "pocket money" for their first annual convention at Grossingers. We are grateful for their support and try to help them in any way we can.

4. Fund Raising — Romaine Bolt ran a garage sale last October and another one in June; chapter members have been selling jewelry. We made over \$900 on a raffle for afghans, and have a raffle going now for a basket of cheer.

5. The chapter has parent representation sitting on Institution committees established by the institution such as the Abuse Panel and the Residents Rights Committee. These also have residents from the institution participating.

6. As you know, this chapter also has a membership rate of \$1 for retarded citizens. We are very proud to tell you that, as of yesterday, we have 97 members who are retarded citizens in the institution and in the community.

7. Shirley Reynolds has also been instrumental in starting our youth ARC group.

West Seneca is indeed a well, alive and very healthy working chapter. It has already surpassed last year's membership total of 450 and may make the goal of 500. If not, they are close. At last count, the total membership of the chapter was 471.

West Seneca insists you know

Due to space limitation the last issue of Our Children's Voice, we did not have an exposition of the many good things happening in the West Seneca Developmental Center chapter. We hasten to communicate this in this issue.

There are certainly interesting developments, such as the chapter having a membership rate of \$1.00 for retarded persons and, as of April 1977, 97 of their members are retarded persons in the institution and the community.

It is also interesting to note that it has the largest foster grandparent program in the state and, of the 104 foster grand-

parents, 62 are paid-up supportive members of the chapter.

In addition, the chapter has parent representation sitting on the institutions committees established by the institution such as the Abuse Panel and the Residents Rights Committee. These have on them also residents from the institution as participants and, not finally, because we know more will be forthcoming, the institution has a marvelous chorus of 20 members for whom the chapter purchased outfits so that they could look like the class act they are. Your editor can vouch for the chorus as he heard them when he attended the West Seneca Chapter meeting in May.

Livingston-Wyoming has new workshop

A new facility has been opened by Hilltop Industries, the vocational rehabilitation and sheltered workshop program run by Livingston-Wyoming Association for Retarded Children, under contract to Livingston and Wyoming counties.

Located in a five-year-old building formerly used for a flower drying process, the Wyoming County facility more than doubles Hilltop's physical plant.

Space on Livingston County Campus in Mt. Morris, where the program opened several years ago to serve both counties, covers 7,200 square feet. The South Warsaw facility covers 9,000 square feet on its first floor and has another 3,500 available for expansion on a second floor.

Both sheltered workshop and rehabilitation services are offered in South Warsaw.

There are now 35 clients at the South Warsaw facility, all Wyoming county residents, all employed in the workshop operation.

By the end of the year, Thomas Rick, Executive Director, predicted there will be from 130 to 140 clients in the Hilltop program, divided about equally between the two units, with about 100 getting service daily.

Eventually, the South Warsaw Hilltop is expected to be self-contained with its own workshop and rehabilitation staff.

Hilltop job contracts are being divided between the Mt. Morris and South Warsaw units.

The contracts are keeping both units at work.

The principal reason is an aggressive procurement policy. A small but important feature of the South Warsaw Hilltop should help procurement. The building has a loading dock.

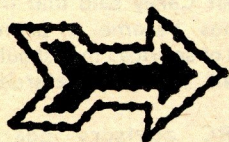
Hilltop is about to recruit a volunteer corps from area colleges and the Wyoming County community to serve the South Warsaw unit. Support from the community so far has been outstanding.

Operating without a public relations office, Hilltop has been putting together what its officials believe is one of the best public service records of any agency, public or private, in the two counties.

Over the past two years, all facets of the operation — number of clients, number of contracts, equipment inventory, range of contract capability, budget — have grown considerably.

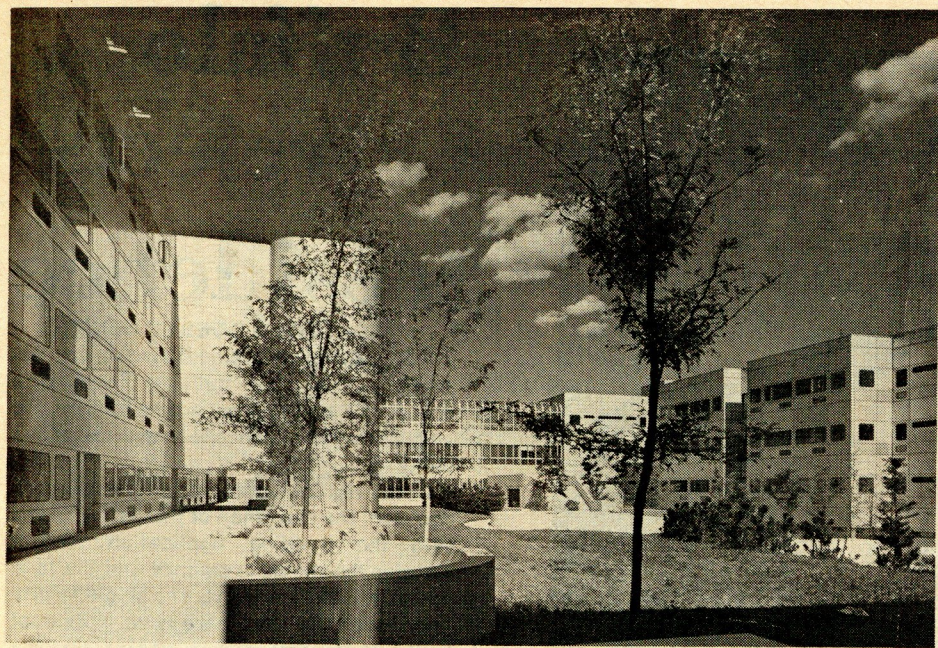
But there have been some growing pains, too.

Because some anticipated "purchase of service" agreements did not materialize, Hilltop now is operating with a budget about \$30,000 out of balance. If the money isn't found somewhere, Hilltop may have to curtail services later in the year.



Sign up NOW
for Grossinger's

Hurry....October 13-16 is almost here



This is the Bronx Developmental Center. It was built by the New York State Facilities Development Corporation for the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene. Although it has won awards from the American Institute of Architects for "outstanding architectural achievement" and from the President's committee on employment of the handicapped for combining "excellence in design with construction to permit barrier free access and use by people with physical disabilities", it has met with severe opposition. Critics of the center have labeled it "non functional for the retarded, built for architects, not people". It is charged that the location, isolated from the community, defeats the purpose for which it was intended. Plans for this institution were rejected three times by James Reville, then President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children and Joseph T. Weingold, its Executive Director.

The story of Bronx Developmental Center

There is now a new beautiful building into which Willowbrook's retarded residents can be moved. And there is also a court ruling to keep the retarded out of it. It is the new 21.4 million dollar building, the Bronx Developmental Center.

In the seven long years since the Bronx Developmental Center entered the planning stage, theories about caring for the retarded have taken yet another jump forward. By 1970, many specialists in the field agreed that huge, custodial institutions were dehumanizing and their designs fostered sensory deprivation. So the state, with the aid of an accomplished architect, designed a facility to overcome sensory deprivation.

The new center is designed for 384 patients, by no means on the scale of the past. But even though the Bronx Developmental may be a beautiful institution as critics say, it is still an institution and as such, another step into the past. The prevailing idea of the best way to care for the retarded is to put them into small residential centers in groups of 15 to 20 or into foster homes.

The height and isolation of the building were criticized, because the new center was built on a relatively small piece of land. It has several stories which makes it less desirable for the severely handicapped and those in wheelchairs. According to critics, the safety considerations include lack of safety glass in some parts of the center, concern over inadequate railings

Ontario heads held high

"Heads are held high at the ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER since receiving word from the State Education Department that they are the recipients of an Adult Basic Education Grant for the second year because of the fine work accomplished last year. Also . . . much excitement is being generated over the new Homemaker Services presently being offered to aid retarded citizens in their homes."

and what some critics call "catwalks" in the center.

Anthony Pinto, second vice president of the Willowbrook chapter of the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, objects to the isolation of the center, which is near the present complex of Bronx State Hospital and faces a highway. There is no neighboring area where a patient can learn to walk to the corner and chat with neighbors. This is a case where it appears that long range planning doesn't work.

The results of the Federal Court hearing on the Bronx Developmental Center is reported elsewhere on this page.

Judge orders no transfers to Bronx

In mid June, a Federal Judge in Brooklyn barred the mass transfer of nearly 150 mentally retarded residents of the Willowbrook Development Center on Staten Island to a new building in the Bronx because "it would delay their placement in the community."

And community placement, Judge John R. Bartels emphasized, was one of the chief goals of a consent agreement entered into in April 1975 by the State Department of Mental Hygiene and the parents of Willowbrook residents.

The department had hoped to use the \$30 million Bronx Developmental Center — an aluminum and glass complex just off the Hutchinson River Parkway — to help meet another requirement of the consent agreement — that it cut down the number of Willowbrook residents from its present 2,500 to 250 by 1981.

"But if the court objects," Commissioner Thomas Coughlin 3d declared, "we'll use the center for other mentally retarded persons in the Bronx, many of whom need just such a facility."

The Commissioner said department lawyers were studying Judge Bartels' decision with a view to filing an appeal but that no determination had been made so far.

Another major factor affecting this determination was the testimony of

GAO

Deinstitutionalization report criticizes Feds

A recent report released by the General Accounting Office criticizes the absence of clear, consistent federal policies and goals concerning deinstitutionalization of mentally ill and mentally retarded persons. Entitled, **Returning the Mentally Disabled to the Community: Government Needs to Do More**, the 254 page report documents the lack of interagency coordination and sets forth over 50 recommendations for alleviating this problem.

The report is based on a two year study conducted by the staff of GAO, an investigative arm of Congress. In addition to reviewing the relevant programs of a wide range of federal departments and agencies and studying pertinent federal and state laws and policies, the GAO staff did an analysis of deinstitutionalization efforts in five selected states (Mass., Md., Mich., Neb., and Ore.). Separate reports have been prepared on GAO's finding in each of these states.

Among the general factors inhibiting deinstitutionalization, according to the study, are: (1) fragmented and unclear responsibility for the mentally disabled in communities; (2) lack of full and well coordinated support from many state and local administering programs for the mentally disabled; (3) difficulties in financing deinstitutionalization and lack of, or lack of access to, appropriate community facilities and services; (4) inadequate transitional planning; (5) lack of a planned, coordinated and systematic federal approach to deinstitutionalization.

In order to illustrate the need for improved coordination, the study points out that eleven major federal departments and agencies administer at least 135 programs affecting the mentally disabled. However, despite the fact that deinstitutionalization has been a national goal since 1963, "Federal agencies that can influence this goal have not yet developed a comprehensive and clearly defined national plan ..."

The study's recommendations are addressed to the activities of Congress, HEW, OMB, HUD and Labor. Among GAO's specific suggestions are: (1) a single official be designated to oversee and coordinate all of HEW's deinstitutionalization efforts; (2) the responsibilities of state DD councils and agencies for stimulating, coordinating and evaluating other agencies' activities should be clarified; (3) ICF-MR regulations governing facilities with fewer than 16 beds be reviewed to determine whether the requirements are too medically oriented to meet the needs of the retarded; and (4) department-wide strategies and plans for facilitating deinstitutionalization efforts be developed by HEW, Labor and HUD.

Fire damages

Utica hostel

A recent fire caused about \$30,000 damage to the Oneida County Association for Retarded Children hostel in Utica, New York recently.

ARC moved into the rambling, 2½ story home last March. \$60,000 was spent for renovations. It will be several months before the hostel will be able to be used. The fire started in a first floor living room during the early afternoon and was discovered by the houseparent, who was the only one at home. Residents were attending an all day conference in Albany with Gerald Matthews, the association executive director, at the time.

The cause of the fire in the hostel, designed to be a "transitional living situation" for mentally retarded adults in the community, is "under investigation."

The blaze was contained in part by a metal door separating the living room from the front hallway. The alarm system in the building was credited with bringing a quick response from fire fighters.

Barbara Blum, director of the department's Metropolitan Placement Unit, that her staff was finding community placement for about 45 mentally retarded persons a month and efforts were being made to increase such openings in the Bronx.

Mrs. Blum said the decision of the Federal District Court would place "a lot of pressure" on her unit. She projected that, because of the ruling, her unit would have to place 135 individuals in community facilities in the next year.

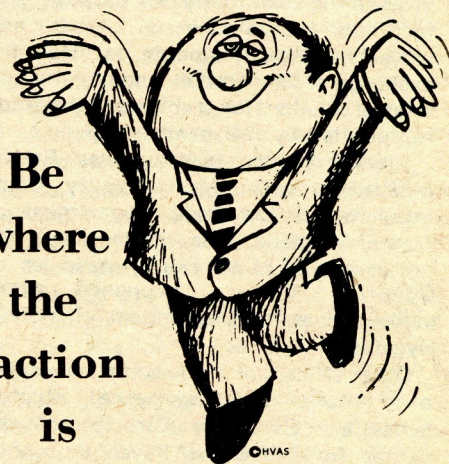
Noting that 400 Willowbrook residents came from the Bronx, Judge Bartel offered a concession to parents from that borough who wanted easier access to their children.

"Nothing in this opinion," he said, "shall prevent the Department (of Mental Hygiene) from considering a transfer of a resident requested by a parent or guardian and transferring said resident to the Bronx Developmental Center."

Commissioner Coughlin said his department would never have transferred anyone without the consent of a parent or guardian in any event.

The controversy over the Bronx facility, described by one architecture critic as one of the most attractive new buildings in the city, began long before it was completed.

Be
where
the
action
is



Be at Grossinger's
October 13-16

ARC wins court decision

A court decision rendered earlier this year by State Supreme Justice David Gibbons ruled that the Association's proposal in Nassau County to establish a hostel at 2 Cedar Street in Freeport was not "an institution, but rather designed to replace the usual institutional setting" with "the creation of a family unit, living as a single housekeeping unit."

The village of Freeport brought an injunction to enjoin the Association from using the building as a hostel. They argued that the hostel for 8 mentally retarded persons (young women) could be considered either a "boarding house" or "an institution" or a "multiple dwelling", all specifically forbidden by local zoning ordinances.

Gibbons' decision agreed with the AHRC's counsel, who argued that the hostel meets state requirements as a "community residence" providing long-term care. The judge wrote, "It bears the generic character of family unit as a relatively stable and permanent household and is consonant with the lifestyle intended for a family oriented neighborhood."

Mayor William White said the village intends to appeal the court decision if village counsel determines there will be any possibility of success in the courts. He said that he did not believe the presence of the hostel would lower property values in the area, but pointed out that Freeport already has a hostel and workshop, sponsored by the ARC which are tax-exempt.

Meanwhile, the village has refused to give the ARC a Nassau permit to do the necessary alteration work on the building and this is resulting in more court action.

Nevertheless, you will read elsewhere in OCV, legislation killed all the bills which would do away with this zoning nonsense.

Laughery named association head

E.G. Laughery, Executive Director, Westchester Association for Retarded Children, was elected President of the Westchester Association of Voluntary Services for Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism, and Drug Abuse.

The Association membership represents a majority of county agencies, providing a variety of helping relationships and services to the community. Its purpose is to facilitate coordination on issues and projects of mutual concern, facilitate the exchange of information, and identify and suggest solutions for problems in the areas represented by the membership.

Speaker at the meeting was Robert McKinley, MD, First Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, who spoke about the potential affects on county agencies of Governor Carey's proposed reorganization of the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Other officers of the Association elected at Friday's meeting were: Morton Schaeffer, Executive Director of the Center for Preventive Psychiatry, Vice President; Ms. Renee Pollack, Director of Community Services, Mental Retardation Institute, Secretary; and Leo Rohmer, Executive Director of the Westchester Jewish Community Services, Treasurer.



Jesse Enison of Tappan reviews the Hebrew blessing he will say next month when he becomes the first mentally retarded boy to make his Bar Mitzvah at the Orangetown Jewish Center.

Bar Mitzvah has special meaning

After months of preparation, 13 year old Jesse Enison donned the tallis (prayer shawl) and his yamulka to become a man in the Jewish religious tradition. He is a special boy, he has made a special effort, and his family, teachers and friends wished him a very special "mazel tov." Jesse is the first mentally retarded boy to make his Bar Mitzvah at the Orangetown Jewish Center. His Hebrew teacher, Mrs. Ruth Greenfield, taught him the difficult lessons in Hebrew and the Rabbi said Jesse was sufficiently trained at the time of his Bar Mitzvah.

Jesse's mother, Mrs. Brent Enison, requested the Bar Mitzvah for her son because he has lost out on a lot in his lifetime. "Not only is he retarded, but he has a heart condition. He seemed so interested in the (temple) services that I decided to speak to the rabbi. It was through his agreement and encouragement that we pursued it."

The Enison's look upon their son's accomplishments with a sense of gratitude.

They have seen great progress in his learning patterns and they are encouraged by the quality education which he has received.

"There is no way in the world Jesse could pick all of this up unless he had these people who were especially trained to work with him."

"I derive my strength from him." "He has had to go through a lot in his lifetime and he has come out of it smiling. It hasn't been a picnic."

Mrs. Enison is a past President of the Orangetown Auxiliary of the Rockland Chapter of the New York State Association for the Help of Retarded Children and has served on its executive board.

Jesse is not the only mentally retarded child in Rockland County to make a Bar Mitzvah, but one whose parents want to publically share their child's achievement.

Jesse received instructions for his Bar Mitzvah 25 minutes a week for a year and a half.

Office of Advocate for Disabled created

Governor Hugh L. Carey, acting in conjunction with an arts festival for handicapped students, today issued an Executive Order establishing the Office of Advocate for the Disabled to coordinate state programs and policies relating to the disabled and handicapped.

"This office will help me develop policies to meet the needs of the disabled," Governor Carey said. "The office will work with every state agency to assure that services that have been provided through law for disabled persons are, in fact, provided. And, importantly, the office will help disabled persons find out what programs are available."

The office also will assist local governments develop programs for the disabled, and will work with educational institutions for the development of courses for persons helping the disabled and handicapped.

Governor Carey said a toll-free telephone number will be provided to help those seeking information about services for the handicapped.

In addition, the Executive Order

established a State Advisory Council on the Disabled to work with the new office and state and local governments in dealing with the problems of the handicapped.

"The Council would help the state to eliminate obstacles to dignity and achievement which the disabled may face as a result of a government and society unaware of their needs," Governor Carey said. The Council will be composed of disabled individuals, their parents, and the heads of state agencies that provide services to the disabled and handicapped.

Governor Carey was the host at the Executive Mansion to more than 100 handicapped students who visited Albany for the "Very Special Arts Festival" at the Empire State Plaza.

The festival was sponsored by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, the National Committee on Arts for the Handicapped, Alliance for Arts Education, New York Special Olympics and the State Education Department. The students demonstrated their activities in music, dance, theater, art and film.

Buffalo rejects residence

ASSOCIATION GOES TO COURT

A Buffalo Town Zoning Board of Appeals recently upheld a building inspector's denial of a building permit to construct a single family residence to house 8 retarded children.

In the motion upholding the inspector's decision, the chairman of the zoning board said the building application clearly violates the zoning ordinance and "fails to conform to the standards of a single family residence." He said there is no individual in the home acting as a parent and the traditional family lifestyle is not created.

The New York State Association for Retarded Children, the applicant, has appealed the decision in the courts. The Association contends that a residential group home for retarded youngsters, proposed to create a neighborhood environment, is within the meaning of the zoning ordinance.

The proposed home, costing an estimated \$110,000 and providing round-the-clock supervision with 13 employees, would have been located in an established residential neighborhood on Buffalo's west side.

A communication from the State Board of Social Welfare, which approved the design and specifications for the five bedroom ranch style home, has been entered into the file of the meeting.

There appeared to be solid neighborhood opposition to the home.

Speaking for the New York Association for Retarded Children Daniel Searl, President of the Erie County ARC said the organization did not represent the state or the county governments but is a volunteer, non profit organization of people with retarded children. "We're that someone else who does the job, rather than government," he told the board. Searl expressed deep feeling when he said, "This is precisely the type of residential setting that my child, and the children of others, need as an alternative."

Queens hostel for blind/m.r. opens

The Association for the Advancement of Blind and Retarded of Queens recently dedicated its second community residence for blind and severely retarded young people in the St. Albans area of the borough.

The residence, which will be home for from 10 to 12 clients, was constructed with the aid of a 50 percent matching grant of \$140,000 from the Department of Mental Hygiene. As a qualified community residence, it will continue to receive operations funding through the Division of Mental Retardation program.

More than 300 attended the dedication chaired by Max Posner, the association's associate executive director. Barbara Blum, assistant commissioner for mental retardation, Dr. Bernard Tesse, director of Bernard Fineson Developmental Center, and Paul Dolan, executive director of One to One, addressed the audience.

Martha Rosen, AABR executive director, said her association would continue its commitment to develop community residences, "which are so desperately needed by the blind and severely retarded and the community."

The Association's official statement cited the opening of the residence as representing a "high water mark" for the cooperation which it received in its efforts from the State, its own friends and the local community.



Human progress has certainly been made at Willowbrook Developmental Center. This blind and profoundly retarded resident has been taught to count out and package screws for money making workshop on the grounds.

From despair to usefulness

Over a hundred residents of the Willowbrook Developmental Center, who for years sat on the wards huddled in corners, barely staying alive, are now productive members of Willowbrook's nine month old work activity center. All of them are profoundly retarded, some physically handicapped and they come to work each day to the workshop at the center to work assembling boxes of screws, putting together pens, packaging various health related items.

"We're just starting to find out what the potential of some residents is," Jack Harrington, Supervisor of the workshop, says. "Some of the residents amaze us with what they can do."

One resident, in his twenties, profoundly retarded, blind, and partially deaf takes metal bolt accessories out a box, places them on a wooden block until he has enough to fill a plastic container. It is a small feat. Except when you consider that he has an I.Q. that may be below 20. For

years, it was believed that profoundly retarded persons were capable only of limited motor skills.

Now, says the workshop supervisor and Dr. Louis Siegel, overall director of the workshop, Willowbrook is seeking contracts for more difficult packaging products. Now the workshop has five contracts.

Already some of the residents in the workshop are finding the current projects boring. The program's supervisors are looking elsewhere for more difficult projects. More difficult, officials are finding, is locating companies who are willing to contract with the state. Poor economic conditions are one roadblock to securing contracts with private companies.

One suggestion to answer the problem of unwillingness to contract with the state might be to locate the workshop off the grounds of the center under the operation of a volunteer agency.

SSI benefits "pass along"

The power pinnacle in Albany — Carey, Anderson and Steingut — has produced a boon for SSI beneficiaries. The Governor, Senate Majority Leader and Assembly Speaker have agreed to mandate, for the first time, a personal care allowance for those on SSI in congregate care facilities, such as homes for the aged.

"In the past," says the Governor's statement, "pass-through of Federal benefit increases resulted only in facilities increasing their rates and thereby eliminating any real benefit increases to the SSI recipient. The agreed-upon legislation would require this year's pass-through (for) personal care allowances."

About 18,000 persons (mostly in private proprietary and nonprofit homes) will receive \$18 a month — \$10 Federal ef-

fective as of July 1 and \$8 State ("at no local expense") as of October 1. About 9,200 SSI recipients in public family care, foster care, mental hygiene facilities and residential treatment units for the mentally disabled, receive the \$10 Federal increase only.

The largest category of SSI recipients in the State — those who live alone or with others — are receiving the \$10 increase in their July checks, bringing their monthly grants to \$238.65 for individuals and \$342.64 for couples. "Recipients with SSI benefits above these standard levels would be excluded from the pass-through."

The bills embodying the agreement are S.6806 (Flynn, et al., Finance Committee) and A.8953 (Rules Committee, request of Eve, et al., Ways and Means Committee).

Alberta, Canada

Where "money follows the child"

The fiscal trade off between upgrading traditional institutions and assuring the growth of community programs has plagued public mental retardation officials for a number of years.

In order to eliminate a major disincentive to the placement of institutional residents, the Services for the Handicapped Branch in Alberta, Canada has devised a plan to transfer fiscal resources with the client when he or she is returned to a community residential setting. To accomplish this goal, a task force was set up to examine the fiscal implications for the institution and to attempt to arrive at a per diem rate for redeployment which would allow the institution to continue to function but also provide incentive for community development.

These procedural steps were found to be necessary by the task force:

1. Regional service operators and the institutional staff at Alberta School Hospital-Deerhome, Alberta's only large public residential facility for the mentally retarded, work together to project the number of individuals to be returned to each part of the province during the next fiscal year.

2. Both regional and institutional staff identify and make commitments for the specific residents who will be transferred during two distinct six month periods.

3. The necessary administrative processes to transfer funds from the institutional budget to the appropriate regional budget are initiated. This step is controlled by the central provincial office and occurs prior to the transfer.

4. A notice of transfer is issued to allow ASH-Deerhome to transfer the resident's medical and personal records to the region and alert the regional staff that formal funding recommendations should be submitted to the central office.

5. ASH-Deerhome is responsible for informing the central office when regions have not fulfilled their commitment to transfer individuals so that previously transferred funds can return to the institution. A number of other procedures were also covered in the task force's report, such as the methodology for interregional transfers, a credit bank concept to be utilized in the event the regions' costs for direct expenditures are less than the transferred funds or vice versa, progress reporting and possible administrative problems. To complement the report of the task force, the Alberta School Hospital-Deerhome prepared an analysis of per diem costs by functional level. The intent was to detail what portions of the institution's budget allocation could be tied directly to each of the 1,914 residents and how to depopulate the institution without removing a disproportionate share of the operating budget.

The program plan outlined by the task force was implemented last year. According to Alberta officials, however, it is too soon to determine the success or failure of the system.

For additional information contact: Dr. R. Short, Director, Services for the Handicapped, Social Services and Community Health, South Tower, Petroleum Plaza, 9915-108 St., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K2G8.

Sweeping changes

Continued from Page 1

how this will affect previous fees for which the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Attorney General have been absolutely vicious in trying to collect.

INTEREST ON MORTGAGES REIMBURSABLE

Another of the ARC measures that was finally passed was to include as a reimbursable item the following:

- a. the reasonable cost of short-term financing necessarily incurred by a voluntary agency during construction of a local facility up to and including the occupancy date and

- b. interest on obligations (mortgages or otherwise) paid to community mental health, or mental retardation services companies as rentals or mortgage payments incurred for the purpose of acquisition of real property, etc.

- c. interest paid on short-term obligations necessarily incurred by a voluntary agency to finance the operation of community facilities for the mentally disabled. The operational date for all these being eligible for reimbursement is April 1, 1978 with the Act taking effect July 1st, 1978. In other words, the obligations incurred before April 1, 1978 are not reimbursable; those after April 1, 1978 are reimbursable.

SUPPLY SYSTEM TRANSFERRED TO OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES

One of the objections to the reorganization bill was, that with three separate agencies, who is going to control the supply system to the various facilities which are under different aegis. This is solved by a measure which transfers the supply system to the Office of General Services, a place it should have been long ago.

OTHER MEASURES THAT PASSED

A bill to include testing of new born infants for hyperthyroidism as is now provided for PKU, with \$50,000 to begin the implementation of this program.

A bill providing for 200 non-competitive Civil Service jobs for the mentally retarded in state government;

A bill to provide for 3 pilot projects, or demonstrations by the Department of Mental Hygiene. We understand these will be created to test the idea of a single delivery system in a community. We are informed that two of these will be for mental health, in Rockland County and in Suffolk County and one for mental retardation in Broome County. Details of these are not yet available.

BILLS THAT FAILED TO PASS ARE:

- A. A bill to provide 75 percent state reimbursement for community services for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled.

- B. A bill to provide that parents who have kept their mentally retarded children at home, shall be reimbursed as family care providers as are the parents now who take their children out of the institutions.

- C. Mandatory education for children from the age of 3.

- D. Transportation for the handicapped over the age of 21 to rehabilitation facilities.

- E. A bill giving mental health boards the sign-off power on purchase of services by the Department of Mental Hygiene. This passed the Assembly but was killed in the Senate.

- F. A bill to provide increased fees to private schools who are now increasing their fees to parents.

CHAPTER NEWS

What our c

For a change, we are going through our Chapter News alphabetically in this issue, and we will begin with the fact that . . . **BROOME-TIOGA** . . . at its 23rd Annual Banquet, presented awards to Jack Delafield and to Peter Gibbore for 25 years of service in providing square dancing music for its young adults. Presentation was made on behalf of the chapter by Richard Marcil. About 320 persons present expressed their recognition of the two gentlemen. . . **CHENANGO COUNTY CHAPTER** was notified that it was awarded a Purchase of Services grant from the Department of Mental Hygiene in the amount of \$57,000. The money received from the grant has enabled the Chapter's workshop to expand existing programs and initiate new ones. Four areas of the workshop will receive equipment purchased with the grant money: the Work Activities Program, the Vocational Evaluation Program, the Recreation Program, and the Food Services Program. . . In the sweltering days of summer, it is hard to think of pleasant, cool days of Fall but **CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER** is looking forward to again placing some of its clients in area orchards to help harvest the apple crop. Last year 10 clients were placed. . . **COMMUNITY LEAGUE WASSAIC CHAPTER** writes to say . . .

full of orderly rows of begonias, coleus, geranium, and sweet smelling alyssum. It's an attractive learning project for the residents and an attractive bargain for friends and relatives. . . We are very happy to find that the First Baptist Church of **CORTLAND COUNTY** was nice enough to offer the Chapter space to provide them with an office. A resource library was already installed in the Chapter's new location. Many thanks to the Church. . . We understand that **CORTLAND County's** unique fund raising event was also quite successful. The Condor's Hang Gilding Club held a Fly-A-Thon to benefit **CORTLAND** and **ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTERS** on June 19th. Sponsors were asked to pledge a certain amount of money for each minute that one of the hang gilder flyer's stayed aloft. . . Speaking of taking advantage of your natural resources in order to develop program — **ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER** takes the cake. Their workshop, Allentown Industries has produced the most unique gift in its 20 year history, "Buffalo Snow". It is actually the liquefied Buffalo snow, stored in a small vial, attached to a plastic and wood stand, with a descriptive brochure, "Chill Factors", which lists memorable statistics of the past winter in Buffalo. Orders have been sent all over the United States by the shop. . . Enjoyed reading the **ESSEX**



Westchester Chapter President, Doris Hosmer (left) has to smile as Vice President, Ann McDonnell, lays the old "rusty shovel" routine on Commissioner Tom Coughlin.

vocational awareness and planning for entry into the world of work. . . **LIVINGSTON - WYOMING CHAPTER** came up with a unique idea to dress up their newsletter; had a contest to name it with dinner at a local restaurant for two, to the winner. Seemed like a great idea and we must say that the new name and the mast head are really nice looking. The Chapter's doing an impressive job of keeping programs and projects running in their two county area by using area chairmen throughout their wide geographic domain. To go with the new newsletter, the Chapter also held its first annual dinner dance, a great idea . . . **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER** took special note of the appointment of Gloria Golisano and Nellie Louise Mitchell to positions on the Board of Visitors of Monore Developmental Center succeeding Lillian Courtheoux and Robert Ziegler. We join **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER** in offering congratulations and best wishes to both on their new appointments. Mrs. Golisano has been a legislative correspondent for the **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER** for some time. **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER** has also developed a very good policy statement for organizations wishing to raise funds on the name of, and - or for the benefit of the Chapter, and we would suggest you ask them for copies of same as a guide to your Chapter. . . The 28th Anniversary of **NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER** was highlighted by proclamations designating the month of May As Association for the Help of Retarded Children month. Several appropriate ceremonies were held to note this event. . . Why don't all of you Chapters with a Coca-Cola bottling plant get out there and do what **NIAGARA COUNTY** did which was to acquire a contract to assemble their quart carrier cartons. Over 50,000 of these little goodies were turned out in the first quarter of this year by our **NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER** workshop. . . **ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER** is very pleased with the \$4500 realized in their 2nd Annual Benefit Tennis Tournament sponsored for them by Unity Life Insurance Co. Many thanks for their support. . . **ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER** invited everyone to come to an Open House at their workshop in June. An excellent way to let the community and members get to know you a little bit better. . . Many thanks from **PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER** to the Knights of Columbus of Carmel for their \$1,000 contribution to the work of the chapter. . . **RENSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER** is sending in news of changes within the chapter and of a new

insurance program. The **RENSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER** recently named James Flanigan as Acting Executive Director and Karen Myers as Acting Director of Community Residences. Flanigan has been employed by the agency for the past 3 years as Director of Community Residences. He also has three years experience as State Director of New York Special Olympics. Karen Myers will be moving up from the position of Assistant Director of Community Residences. **RENSELAER** has also recently received approval for the opening of its 7th community residence. The **RENSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER** also recently signed an agreement with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for a group life insurance program, that also includes coverage for accidental death and dismemberment. All clients working in the ARC adult vocational training programs will be eligible for the coverage, which will become a part of the benefit package for trainees. The cost for coverage will be a very reasonable 51 cents per \$1,000 of coverage. Arrangements for the new program were made through Ken Manning, Group Supervisor for Metropolitan and William Dedrick, local sales agent. Metropolitan will be closely examining the process of this group plan, which hopefully will open the doors for future insurance coverage for the mentally retarded adults throughout the State. . . Mrs. Frances Smolen, President of **ROCKLAND COUNTY** Auxiliary for Retarded Children sent out a recent note to the members of the Chapter indicating that with their help they could smooth out the Chapter's cash flow problem with a Bingo operation. It was a good letter and we hope it brought some volunteers. Thanks from **ROCKLAND** to Topknot Hairstylists for running a 15 hour Cut-A-Thon (you guessed it, that's haircuts with the proceeds going to the Chapter) . . . **ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY CHAPTER** very much enjoyed having past president Robert J. Hodgson, as the speaker on the subject of guardianship at their Annual Dinner, June 23rd at the University Inn in Canton, New York. . . A varied slate of events listed by **SARATOGA COUNTY CHAPTER** thanking Skidmore College for sponsoring the ARC booth at the Rotary Show; sponsoring a rodeo and being the beneficiaries of a dance review. . . **SCHENECTADY COUNTY** is up to their ears in celebration with their 25th Anniversary activities. Happy Silver Anniversary to **SCHENECTADY** . . . We note also in their newsletter that a Boy Scout Group, Troop 81, celebrated its 20th Anniversary at a



At the Broome County Dinner, (left to right) Jack Delafield and Pete Gibbore receive plaques for 25 years of service from Chapter President, Richard Marcil.

Every year Wassaic Developmental Center holds a Silver Anniversary Party in honor of employees with 25 years or more of State Service. This year's was held at The Pond, a well known Inn in Copake. About 150 celebrants attended to witness the presentation of the gold 25 year service pin to the 14 dedicated personnel who had reached this eminence of service this year. The simple ceremony was conducted by Thomas A. Coughlin, Deputy Commissioner Division Mental Retardation and Children's Services. Richard Merges, Wassaic's Director, who had further reason for good cheer, since he had just received his Doctor of Philosophy Degree, spoke briefly as did Halliday Clark, President of Wassaic's Board of Visitors, and Leo Fixler who represented Community League. . . Another item from **COMMUNITY LEAGUE** is . . . One of the more colorful work projects recently established at Wassaic is a flourishing Greenhouse. And what a potting shed it is,

COUNTY newsletter which reminded me that since November 1st, 1974 this small county has developed a workshop and three community residences. Quite a challenge to some of its larger relations. . . Several pieces of news from **HERKIMER COUNTY CHAPTER**: This year's Swim-A-Thon, held May 8-14, 1977, was a very worthwhile effort. The total amount pledged was \$10,101 and most pledges have been honored to date. Our county Administrator, Victor B. Norman, was fund raising chairman and worked very closely with Mrs. Judy Sprague and Mr. Tim Garren to make this year's event a successful community effort. In order to provide special teen-agers, ages 15-21, with work experience, a summer program has been established at Herkimer County Training Center — Sheltered Workshop. This program will aid the special teen-agers transition from school age to adult by providing an opportunity to receive actual work experience and will encourage

chapters are doing and saying for our children.

May 26th Banquet. That's reported to be the oldest troop for handicapped scouts in New York State. Anyone want to dispute that? . . . **STEUBEN COUNTY'S** newsletter bubbling over with great news that a new community residence will be opening in Hornell. . . We shall join many persons in missing the smiling face of Jo Iovino as President of **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER**, which is not to say that we are not delighted with their new President, but her messages were so very meaningful. In her last President's message she spoke of her frustrations of the job together with some accomplishments of the Chapter. We would just like to repeat No. 10 on their list, as an example to staff persons throughout the State. "No report could be complete without recognition of the total dedication of our executive director, Bob Sansone. He continues to demand the best from employees and volunteers alike and sets a remarkable example for all of us. Our retarded population can only benefit from our continuing quest for excellence in services". . . The "Melody Bells", a choral group comprised of members of the **SULLIVAN COUNTY ARC** Day Treatment Program, provided entertainment for residents and staff of the Walnut Mountain Nursing Home in Liberty, New York. Ms. Sarah Barrett, Music Therapist and choral instructor, accompanied the group on the guitar and led a selection of songs from "around the world". Arrangements for the concert were made through Mrs. Ellie Goldner, Director of Activities at the nursing home. A joint sing-along followed the performance with vocal assistance from Ms. Ingeborg Franscini, a professional vocalist and a volunteer at the residential health care facility. . . We are really delighted to see that **ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER'S** newsletter containing so much information about activities in Ellenville where good new programs were needed. Just to show some of the difficulties they are going through, but keeping going nevertheless, we share with you this brief quote from Marvin Budoff, Foreman of the Ellenville shop. "The workshop has now gone through the better part of the 1977 winter in its old Kimble firehouse in Ellenville. During one three-week period,



The Delaware County Association for Retarded Children sponsored a Bike-A-Thon recently. Hundreds of cyclists traveled the many hills and valleys of Delaware. The cyclists began their ride at 10 a.m. from the Catskill Junior High School. They rode on route 9W to Coxsackie and took route 385 back, a total of 25 miles.

pipes were completely frozen and water had to be brought in from outside sources. The boiler has been shut down several times causing loss of heat in the building. The ceiling has sprung new leaks and old pipe joints have needed to be retightened regularly. The results have been shown through low production, high absences and a lack of continuity in general. The extra efforts of the staff and the aid of workshop friends have kept the workshop operating through the most difficult periods and are most appreciated. . . **WELFARE**

LEAGUE- LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER always working far in advance to provide programs for their residents. Already their newsletter filled with information about their Annual Luncheon which will be on November 19th this year. . . **WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER** was very pleased with Commissioner Tom Coughlin when he was able to be their speaker at their Annual meeting and that Regional Vice President Kit Palmatier came to install their officers. The high point of the evening was when Com-

missioner Coughlin indicated that the Department of Mental Hygiene was planning to build two hostels on Bryant Avenue in White Plains. Board Vice President Ann McDonnell evoked approving laughter from the membership as she presented a rusty shovel to Mr. Coughlin, noting that it was about 10 years ago when DMH first agreed to build on Bryant Avenue, and that it has rusted from disuse. Mrs. McDonnell explained that our membership had expected that Mr. Coughlin was going to have to "dig your way out of this meeting, but we feel so much better now that we know the hostels will be built soon that we changed the ribbon from black to red!". . . Last but by no means least, we offer our congratulations to President Genevieve Camen of **WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER** for a recent award. The Greater New York Council on Mental Retardation presented President Genevieve A. Camen its first annual award for outstanding work in the field of mental retardation. The award was given on Friday, May 6th at the New Small's Paradise in Manhattan. The Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus endorsed the award and sent Mrs. Camen a letter of congratulations.



At Sullivan County Chapter's Annual Meeting, Executive Director Marc Brandt (left) and guest speaker, Dr. Hyman Rothstein (right), take time out to pose with newly elected President, Dr. Russell Davis, Jr.

HURRY-CONVENTION
LET'S MEET AT GROSSINGER'S

A Chorus Line for Saratoga



These dancers kicked up their heels in unison at the Stepping Star Review at Saratoga Springs junior high school. Over 250 dancers participated and over 1,000 were in the

audience. Proceeds of the review benefited the Saratoga County Association for Retarded Children.

The unpublic BOCES

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services were created to provide services in difficult areas for individual school districts unable to do so alone. The education of the severely handicapped is an example. The "component" school districts (voluntary) create the BOCES. Thereafter, it may be a closed door, with little accountability.

In December of 1973, Daniel Klepak, director of the Office of Education Performance Review, issued a report analyzing the function of various BOCES districts throughout the state. The conclusion and recommendations of that report, which have, as of this date, not been implemented, are particularly germane to the demise of the local gentlemen's agreement. Klepak found the following:

"1. Very few units of government are as isolated from the public as BOCES.

"a. BOCES are not required by law or by state policy to be fully accountable.

"Its accountability is indirect as evidenced by the legal requirements for election and duties of BOCES board members. Members of BOCES boards are elected to 5-year terms by component school board members and trustees. In this respect, the component districts have some voice in the selection process. However, unlike election of school board members, the public has no direct role in the elections.

"By law, boards are limited to five, seven or nine members. Because most BOCES regions have a large number of school districts, a 9-member board cannot truly represent the interests of each participating school district.

"Furthermore, some component districts have more than one representative on a BOCES board, thereby further limiting the potential for equal representation. Most important, once elected to the board, there is no requirement that members report back to the home school district.

"Although interested citizens in the BOCES region are sometimes invited to attend meetings of the board, as in the case of selecting board members, a

private citizen has no formal role in approving the BOCES budget."

"GENTLEMEN'S agreements" are a poor substitute for a statutorily mandated system of accountability and equality of participation of the various component school districts.

Throughout Rockland County, there has been a great outcry from the taxpayers on school budgets. The citizens of the county have been active participants in the development of school budgets and the retention of school board members whose views correspond to that of the majority of the voters.

BOCES is the only school in the state where the public as a whole has no vote on the budget and has no choice in the members of the board of education. It is shocking to know that when even the duly-elected officials of a particular school district seek to make their presence felt on the BOCES board, they are thwarted. This system cannot be allowed to continue. It is an anachronism that must be eliminated.

Klepak's report provided certain recommendations. Some of these are:

"... To increase the accountability of BOCES to the taxpayers and component school districts, the law should be changed to provide for:

"Selecting board members at a general election.

"Reducing terms of board members to three years.

"Permitting the president of each component school board to vote on the BOCES administrative budget.

"Increasing board membership in heavily populated areas to insure adequate representation from the community..."

It is time our duly-elected state legislators review the original Klepak report and take action to correct the unbridled power of BOCES in the state.

No governmental entity should be allowed to be above direct accountability to the public. The right of the citizens to a direct participation in the development of million dollar budgets is beyond argument. The time has come to secure this right.

Update on the Courts

Donaldson against O'Connor. A settlement of \$20,000 has been authorized by a Florida Trial Court to be paid to Kenneth Donaldson by his "treating" physician and the estates of the former institution superintendent. Donaldson has also asked the defendants to pay attorney fees, which are estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Donaldson successfully established in his suit that he was held involuntarily for almost fifteen years in a Florida State Hospital despite the fact that he was not dangerous and was not receiving treatment.

The United States Supreme Court, deciding for Donaldson, held that "a state cannot constitutionally confine a non-dangerous individual who is capable of surviving safely in freedom by himself or with the help of willing and responsible family members or friends."

Welsch vs. Likins. The Eight Circuit Court of Appeals, while affirming several decisions of the Minnesota Federal District Court regarding the right to treatment of mentally retarded individuals, has remanded for further consideration the key order concerning the injunction of certain State fiscal laws.

On July 28, 1976, the District Court enjoined the Commissions of Administration and Finance from enforcing fiscal laws

which prevented the implementation of earlier court orders regarding the improvement of institutional conditions, etc.

The Appellate Court clearly affirmed the power of the court to take injunctive action such as described above with the statement "if Minnesota chooses to operate hospitals for the mentally retarded, the operation must meet minimal constitutional standards and that obligation may not be permitted to yield to financial consideration."

Bartels, et. al. vs. Biernat, et. al. A permanent injunction preventing the Milwaukee County Transfer System from purchasing 100 new buses inaccessible to the handicapped with federal funds was granted February 14, 1977.

In addition, two new federal defendants in the case, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation and the Administrator of the United States Mass Urban Transportation Administration were "permanently enjoined from releasing any federal monies to MCTB, Milwaukee County or any of their agents or subdivisions, which would assist in acquiring, leasing, renting, subsidizing or in any way operating any mass transit vehicles not accessible to mobility handicapped persons."

Sports night for Allegany

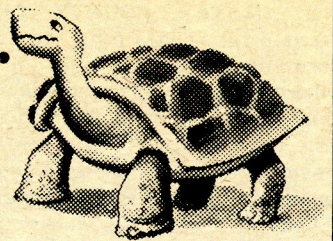
Former world boxing champion Carmen Basilio, Jimmy Satalin and Pete Carlesimo were among the guest speakers for a recent Sports Night in Allegany County.

Basilio held two world boxing championships during his career in the 1950s

and early 60s. Satalin is the coach of the NIT champion St. Bonaventure basketball team and Carlesimo is the athletic director at Fordham. Carlesimo has appeared on the Johnny Carson Show and at many major sports banquets. The Sports Night benefited Allegany County's Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

Don't be a slowpoke.

Sign up now



Wassaic program criticized

A controversial day care program at the Wassaic Developmental Center for the mentally retarded has thrown untrained and often unsuspecting workers into daily struggle with patients institution officials rate as among their most difficult and dangerous.

Hollis W. Shaw, deputy director of the 2,500-patient center in eastern Dutchess County, said efforts are being made to upgrade the flawed training, but personnel currently being assigned to the day care unit are given only a two-week standard orientation devoid of specialized instruction.

WORKERS CRITICAL OF PROGRAM

Interviews with present and former workers in the day care unit, which houses approximately 20 mentally retarded men and women with emotional difficulties, produced criticisms of the program and its administrators, but praise for the patients characterized as "fighting to get out."

A State Department of Mental Hygiene program analyst who inspected the day care unit recently, said staff training was inadequate. But she disagreed with workers who called the program a failure and maintained its abolition would speed up treatment designed to get patients out of the institution. She said she found patients busy in rehabilitative programs

and staff workers enthusiastic about program progress although administrators agree with the need for more intensive care and are working toward general program upgrading.

MODEL ESTABLISHED FOR DIFFICULT PATIENTS

DMH officials established the day care model last fall for patients previously housed in a single, locked ward building at Wassaic. The patients have been described as patients with "adjustment difficulties." Workers say the term is a code word for disruptive behavior and transfer to the "P-5 and G-5" was more for punishment than treatment.

Program deficiencies were cited in a Manhattan federal court complaint filed in 1976 by the state Association for Retarded Children against the state DMH.

Now the subject of pre-trial negotiations, the complaint alleged patients were brutalized, kept in a prison-like atmosphere and denied developmental treatment.

DMH officials designed the intensive day care program to provide a developmental setting. The plan was for workers to carry out a program of daily activities over a 16-hour period between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Patients at night would return to general population housing.

"When the program started," Shaw said, "we had an 80-hour special training program for duty on that unit, but replacements just have routine orientation."

TURNOVER, ABSENTEEISM, SICK LEAVE BLAMED

Wassaic officials have blamed high employee turnover, absenteeism and sick leave due to injuries as forcing the use of untrained personnel.

Several workers who took part in the 80-hour program labeled it a gross deception both in terms of promised patient programming and its failure to inform them of the dangers that awaited.

The state spends approximately \$13,000 annually for the care of Wassaic patients. But intensive care programs at two specialized units cost significantly more.

A special program for the mentally retarded with behavioral problems at the Hillcrest School, a Wassaic unit on the grounds of Hudson River Psychiatric Center, averages \$77,000 per patient. Another at Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center costs \$25,000 per patient. Shaw compared the needs of Hillcrest patients to those in the special day care unit.

Award presented to Senator Jacob Javits

On June 23, 1977, on the 6th Anniversary of the Javits' Amendments to the Wagner-O'Day Act, Senator Javits was presented an award from National Industries for the Severely Handicapped, for his dedicated efforts that made possible fine results of this act.

Through Senator Javits' efforts, the original act enabling Federal Government procurement from workshops employing the blind to be extended to include sheltered workshops employing other severely handicapped individuals.

Under the amendment Act, Public Law 92 - 28, the NISH program providing technical assistance for sheltered workshops came into existence. Since that time, NISH has successfully assisted 73 workshops nationwide to obtain and execute federal contracts valued at \$15,671,372 per year, representing approximately 1,500 steady jobs for severely handicapped individuals.

The Executive Director of the New York State Association, Joseph T. Weingold, was the prime mover in the amended Wagner-O'Day Act and was so recognized by then President Nixon who presented him with a pen of acknowledgement of his pioneering work in this field.



The community recycling center in Mohawk, operated by the Herkimer County Association for Retarded Children has acquired another glass drop off site from the State Department of Transportation, bringing its total to 19. From left are: David Armstrong and Kenneth Richards, both workers at the recycling center; Chris Celi, driver; Thomas Sprague, the ARC Executive Director, and Kenneth Burritt, recycling center coordinator.

Herkimer ships tons of glass

In a little more than a year, the Herkimer County Association for Retarded Children's community recycling center has shipped 1,024 tons of crushed glass to Elmira.

According to Frank Biernat, operations director, "The advantages of this program are tremendous, benefitting not only to the ARC and the workers but various communities, individuals and glass manufacturers as well."

Mr. Biernat also indicated that the communities' response to drop-off points and individual business pickups have increased considerably. "We now employ the use of two three-quarter ton pickup trucks that are making the project much more successful and we wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for being so considerate."

Giannini new AAMD head

Margaret J. Giannini, M.D., Director of the Mental Retardation Institute of New York Medical College in Valhalla, was installed as the new President of the American Association on Mental Deficiency at their 101st Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. As President of the 18,000 member Association, Dr. Giannini will head the country's leading professional organization devoted to improving standards of care and promoting research and new methods of patient treatment. The Association is based in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Giannini is a world-renowned pioneer in the field of mental retardation. She founded the Mental Retardation Institute in 1950 as one of the first clinics in the nation devoted exclusively to retardation. Through the years, the facility has grown to a two-campus location (one in Westchester County in Valhalla), and is regarded as the world's largest and foremost treatment resource for the developmentally disabled. The Institute employs a multidisciplinary professional staff of 500 and cares for more than 20,000 clients each year.

A former President of the American Association of University Affiliated Programs for the Developmentally Disabled, Dr. Giannini is also a member of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities; is Chairman of the State Planning Committee of the Developmental Disabilities Council; Vice-Chairman of the Interagency Council of Manhattan; Chairman of the Committee on Children with Handicaps of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Chapter 3, District III, and many other positions of state and national importance. In addition to her busy professional career, Dr. Giannini is the wife of Louis J. Salerno, M.D., Vice President, Mental Retardation Institute, of the New York Medical College, and the mother of four sons. The Salernos are residents of Pelham Manor.

"In or out": What's least restrictive?

The following letter by A.Z. Soforenko, Ph.D. appeared in an edition of *Mental Retardation*, a monthly journal published by the American Association on Mental Deficiency. It presents a viewpoint that may be of interest to our readers.

Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam,

And the deer and the antelope play ...

That old favorite, in short, emulates Jefferson's "pursuit of happiness" theory that has plagued the American spirit for decades.

In most recent years, regarding a specific segment of our society, the mentally retarded, a new concept — conceived in the courts, nurtured by the legal fraternity, and borne by a new breed of professional, is the "less restrictive — more restrictive" syndrome.

It would appear the "labeling" has been extended from the individual to the system — called the institution. "Out is better than in" and "in is more restrictive than out."

This is a relatively new proposal and is easily "bumper - stickerable", (as was "Tippicanoe and Tyler, Too"), but for one fault. If one looks microscopically at the matter, "in" may be less restrictive than "out."

One need only speak with, and observe, the retarded person who has "stayed at home" his entire life, and has been community programmed, to discern that it may very well be that "his lot" is indeed much more restrictive than his peer in the institution.

For example, does the one who "stayed at home" have the option to go to the local parlor for an ice cream or soft drink, on his own, and when he pleases? Does he have the option to choose between going swimming, to a ball game, or a county fair, on his own and when he pleases? This writer questions it.

It is the position of this writer that indeed, the "community" person has been over-protected, programmed, and isolated from his options of choice by families who care, and communities who fear.

Without "hard data" — but with a sensitive, "intuitive bowel", this writer believes that the "vogue-ish" terms of less and more are in paradox to the realities of the situation, and should be redefined to meet the needs of individuals within the system — rather than to meet the needs of the system, which happens to serve individuals.

Will the real, more-restrictive environment please stand up???

Albany police, firemen

walk beat for retarded

Most of the time, there's nothing unusual about a policeman walking a beat, but there were some very important changes on June 6th, in Albany.

On that date, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., members of the Albany Police Officers Union and Local 2007 of the Albany Permanent and Professional Firefighters Association "walked a beat" to help the mentally retarded.

The occasion was a Tag Day, co-sponsored by the two unions, for the benefit of the Albany County Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children. Members of the unions were in downtown Albany, at the South Mall and at Westgate Shopping Center, asking support from the public for the Chapters more than 100 mentally retarded clients.

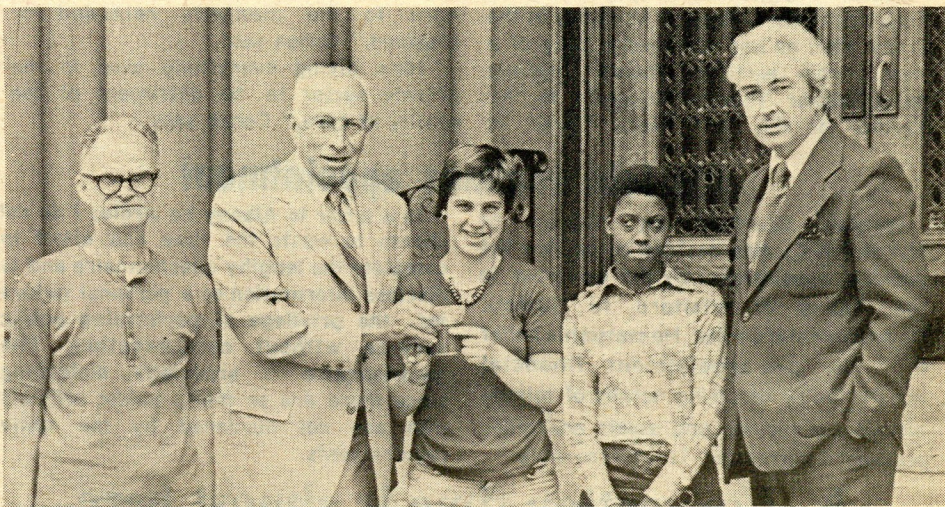
All programs of the Albany County Chapter are now back in place, after their financial woes had forced a brief closing in January. In spite of some severe budget reductions, the Chapter still needs to raise \$25,000 during 1977, to continue its services to adults and children.

Mike Romano, President of the

Firefighters Union and Thomas Ingley, President of the A.P.O.U. joined in asking the citizens of the area to generously support the efforts of their members, who were out on the street, soliciting the contributions. "Every cent raised will remain in Albany County, and will be eligible to be matched by the Department of Mental Hygiene," they said. "We hope everyone will help our members, help the retarded."

Joseph T. Flanagan, who co-ordinated the project on behalf of the Unions added, "The unions have been interested in helping the retarded for several years, and have tried, in the past, to publicize their needs and get others to help. This year, we're not waiting for other promises," he said, "but going out and showing the way ourselves."

Mr. Flanagan further stated that anyone not reached in the Tag Day, who might wish to do something for the Chapter, could still send contributions directly to: Albany Co. Chapter ARC, 419 Madison Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12210. Photograph, Page —



Mayor Erastus Corning of Albany makes the first contribution to Albany County Chapter's Tag Day, while Caroline Reith of our Workshop happily accepts. Ken Edwards (left), Barbara Reeves and Chapter President, Frank Sheridan keep a serious eye on the proceedings.

Suit settled in man's death

The wife of a retarded man who died as a result of "forced restraint" has accepted a \$30,000 settlement from the city of Rochester and National Ambulance Company.

The woman sued for \$750,000 for herself and her daughter. She claimed six Rochester police officers and two National Ambulance attendants were negligent and thus caused her husband's death as they tried to subdue him in March of '73.

At that time, the Monroe County Medical Examiner's office said the man died an "asphyxial type death" resulting from "forced restraint." A county grand jury investigation said police officers had not acted improperly in subduing the six foot, 270 pound man.

According to the settlement papers, the man had an I.Q. of 73 and was functionally retarded. Shortly before his death, he had been suspended from a training program at the Al Sigl Center because of his intelligence level and "anti-social behavior."

As a result of three trouble calls from the man's parents' home, they decided to take him into custody under the state Mental Hygiene Law and called the ambulance.

After a struggle, he was subdued with handcuffs and restraining straps and placed on a stretcher. He was pronounced dead shortly after the ambulance reached Rochester General Hospital.

The papers said his wife was advised to accept \$30,000 because it would be difficult to prove his death caused her economic loss. He had been irregularly employed and found it difficult to get jobs because of his mental problems, the papers said.

CSEA challenges Willowbrook order

Attorneys for the Civil Service Employees Association, representing 4,200 Willowbrook workers, argued in an Albany Supreme Court that the impending takeover of seven Willowbrook facilities by a private organization violates state law.

It was more than two years ago that the federal court first took authority over Willowbrook and its mentally retarded population, in an attempt to force an improvement of unconscionable conditions there.

The Willowbrook Consent Judgment, the humanization decree signed by state officials in April 1975, ordered the institution to reduce the number of residents, now about 2,500 to 250 by 1981.

Recently, a second decree was arranged, again in the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, which called on the state to contract with United Cerebral Palsy, a non-profit group for control of some Willowbrook facilities.

As state and UCP officials appeared to be nearing an accord on provisions of a July 15th takeover, CSEA, fearing massive

layoffs and an unwise precedent, brought the matter before the Albany court. The state and UCP were banned from entering into any contracts until further arguments were heard.

Counsel for the Willowbrook workers said the union believes "it is unconstitutional under the Mental Health Law for the state to contract out governmental functions to private groups." But he conceded CSEA's major concern is jobs. Approximately 55,000 workers belong to CSEA. UCP and mental health officials say that 700 professional and non-professional employees affected by the proposed takeover would be transferred to other buildings at Willowbrook. If they preferred, they could apply for jobs in the UCP run Willowbrook buildings.

Mental Health officials revealed that the so called "children's complex," 5 buildings now home for young people, Willowbrook's future, are among the seven that will be turned over to the private palsy group — if the union's court action fails.

CSEA hits care plan

The state's largest public employee union has attacked as politically motivated Gov. Hugh Carey's plan to shift a large number of mental patients from Mental Hygiene Department Institutions to smaller local facilities.

The Civil Service Employees Association, releasing a consultant's study of the program, said the state is using a quota system to force directors of state facilities to "dump patients on the street."

Dr. James Cohen, a consultant hired by the CSEA, said Carey's plan "is dumping patients on the community, which lacks the facilities and the finances to give them adequate care."

He said 70 per cent of the patients currently "dumped" return for further treatment within a year. He said that rate compared with 39 per cent in 1967 and 60 per cent in 1972.

William McGowan, a CSEA vice president, said, "Every director of each facility has a quota of how many people they have to dump out of the system each month."

"And, the administration continues to pressure facility directors to get the patients out, even if some of the more responsible among them protest there are no adequate facilities to send them to on the outside," McGowan said.

Cohen, a professor of psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, said he had obtained a copy of a memo from assistant mental hygiene commissioner Thomas Coughlin to the director of the O.D. Heck center in

Schenectady urging him to meet his quota for reducing the number of in-patients.

"To meet federal standards (for staffing and treatment) they are forcing O.D. Heck to do more than it can do," Cohen said. "They are destroying a beautiful program."

Cohen said the quotas are part of a five-year plan designed to eliminate the jobs of 15,000 state mental hygiene workers.

Admitting that the last three administrations had adopted a policy of shifting mental health services away from large state institutions and toward community based facilities, Cohen said, "The difference with Carey is that large numbers of patients are being dumped into communities without proper housing, support and aftercare."

"Deinstitutionalization is a fiscal and political concept and not a clinical one," Cohen said. He contended states such as California which pioneered the concept of community-based care "are having second thoughts about it. They are finding it simply doesn't work as well as they expected."

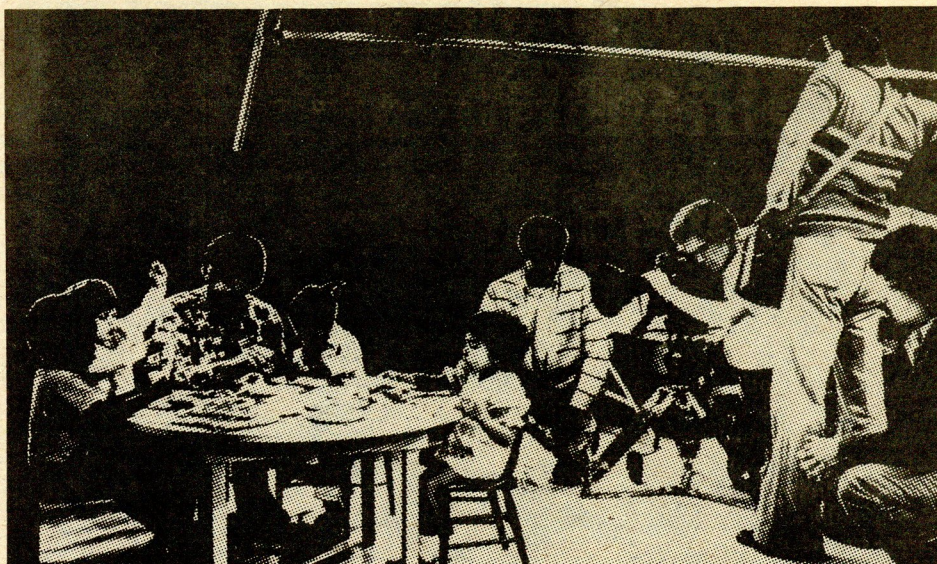
The state "is abdicating its responsibility" to care for the mentally disabled and the retarded and turning it over to communities "and a private and voluntary sector which historically has demonstrated no commitment to give adequate care to the mentally retarded or disabled," Cohen said.

"He's giving everything over to the private sector to the detriment of the quality of care," Cohen said.

Clurfeld declines appointment

Hyman Clurfeld an officer of N.Y.S.A.R.C., has decided to decline the possible appointment by the Governor to the Board of Visitors to Suffolk Developmental Center. He stated his belief that the pre-appointment financial questionnaire requiring details of minute amounts of income and assets and other personal information, is unreasonable.

In a letter to Albany he wrote: I do not choose to waste the time and effort to complete the lengthy questionnaire and to disclose information of a personal nature for the privilege of performing public service without compensation. The questionnaire is especially disturbing since there are so many public officials who are not burdened by the same requirements.



Operation "Child Find"

The Education of the Handicapped Act, as amended by Public Law 94-142, requires the State Education Department to initiate a statewide effort to identify all handicapped children who reside in the State. Chapter 853, Section 4403 (1) requires the Department to maintain information on all such children and Section 4402 (1) (a) of that statute requires each district to maintain a register of all such children.

To comply with Federal and State Child Identification requirements, the State Education Department has initiated a Statewide Public Awareness campaign.

During this time, a Child Find Film produced by the State Education Department was broadcast on the ITV

Network. The broadcast was followed by remarks by Bernice M. Kipfer, Assistant Commissioner for Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions of the New York State Education Department, and regional panel presentations. The panel discussed warning signs of handicapping conditions and regional services and programs available to handicapped children.

Local newspapers in the State carried information on the date and time of the film broadcasts.

The second phase of the Statewide Public Awareness effort will continue in the fall. Additional public awareness materials will be disseminated.

Sterilization order denied

An application by guardian for an order authorizing the sterilization of a 16 year old mentally retarded ward was denied recently in a New York State Court.

The petition alleged, that although the girl is 16 years old, she functions below a 5-year level as the result of severe mental retardation. It further alleged that she is attractive and attempts have been made to seduce her. The petition concludes she would be entirely unable to care for a child in the event she were to become pregnant.

The petition was denied. Judge John D. Bennett stated no statute in New York State authorizes this extraordinary procedure and, in the absence of legislative guidelines, determination of such a fundamental right may not be left to the courts on a case-by-case basis. The position in New York is that sterilization "should be approached with extreme caution and permitted only when it clearly appears it is indicated as a proper medical measure for the protection of the health of the individual." Moreover, in more recent Supreme Court cases, the right to bear children has been held to be "fundamental." The Judge ruled that in the absence of specific statutory authority, the courts lack jurisdiction to make this fundamental and irreversible decision.

In his statement, the judge emphasized that the fundamental right at stake is not absolute. The state may by statute restrict it when there is compelling reason to do so. New York has apparently not seen fit to enact such legislation. It is imperative that if restrictions are placed on the right to bear children, they must be carefully delineated by the Legislature and not by the judiciary. While the court takes no position as to whether the Legislature should act in this regard, it feels strongly that the sterilization of incompetents is not a proper subject for *ad hoc* determination by the judiciary. A copy of this decision has been forwarded to Senate and Assembly representatives.

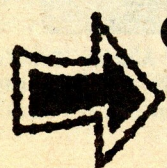
The court noted its determination was based in part on the present available medical information that sterilization of women appears to be permanent and not reversible. If satisfactory medical data can be submitted to the court indicating the procedure can be reversed, Judge Bennett said the court may reconsider this application.

Zoning ban on hostels prohibited

In a decision which may affect hostels for the mentally retarded, housing seven people with foster parents, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has held that a proposed group home in a single family residential zoning district, could not be denied a building permit because of any zoning restrictions. (*Group Home of Port Washington Inc. vs. Board of Zoning and Appeals of the Town of North Hempstead*) Quoting the *City of White Plains against Ferraiola*, the court indicated that a group home is a "family" for purposes of certain zoning requirements when it has an internal structure "akin to a traditional biologically unitary family..." This group home for psychiatric treatment of youngsters does not fall into this category according to the court. Nevertheless, the court held that the zoning ordinance which would prohibit the group home is void as contrary to State policy. "The State has taken hold of the entire problem and has pre-empted the right of any local government to make any laws inconsistent therewith," said the court.

In other words, wherever a permit or a license for a group home of this kind is issued by the Department of Mental Hygiene, it supercedes all zoning ordinances.

This is not exactly a decision for hostels, but well may be applied to hostels under these circumstances.



Convention time is almost here.....

Go Grossinger's

On the Public Works Act

Because Governor Hugh Carey has requested no funds under the Public Works Employment Act for facilities for the mentally retarded in the community, Joseph Weingold Executive Director of the New York State Association wrote a letter, early this year, to Jacob Javits United States Senator from the State of New York:

The Public Works Employment Act would seem to offer a tremendous opportunity to construct physical facilities to house mentally retarded persons in the community, providing special schools for them and building workshops, all physical facilities desperately needed by this population.

In New York State, the sad fact is the State of New York did not include one single facility of this kind in its request for Public Works funds, although it was asked to do so by 21 different communities. Counties, too, seem to put a low priority on this, preferring other forms of construction, generally not related to these human needs.

When we add to this the fact that HUD has been almost completely unresponsive to the requests of the agencies in this State, except for Onondaga County, for mortgage funds to construct community residences, we wonder whether, indeed, these laws

mean anything for the mentally retarded population.

It is our feeling, however, that they should. HUD is a question of administration in Washington, but the Public Works Employment Act has a major deficiency inasmuch as the principal non-profit agencies cannot apply directly for such funds. We should like to suggest, therefore, that this law be amended, at least in respect to agencies serving the handicapped to permit them to apply directly for Public Works Employment Act funds to construct the physical facilities needed to serve this population.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Javits' response to the Weingold letter was received recently:

As a rule, as with revenue sharing funds, funds distributed under the Public Works Employment Act or other employment programs such as CETA are distributed to units of general purpose, state and local governments rather than to private agencies. There is little likelihood that such agencies could be deemed eligible without considerable risk to equitable distribution of such funds among the states.

I share your concern that state decisions with respect to utilization of such funds should be more sensitive to the needs of mentally retarded and other handicapped persons. I trust you will continue to express your views to the Governor and appropriate state and local offices who administer these programs.

4 retarded die in fire

A state fire and safety inspection report in September, 1976, gave a clean bill of health to the LeRoy C. Sprague home near Dexter where 4 retarded persons died in a fire early this year. While the home met state standards, however, it was not required to have smoke detectors and did not have any.

Richard Oliver of the Sunmount Developmental Center, Tupper Lake, is stationed in Watertown and is coordinator of the family home care program which involved the Spragues.

He said the fire inspection report recommended only one action and that was relocation of one of three fire extinguishers in the home. He said only large homes are required to have smoke detectors.

The four persons who died were previously residents of Sunmount. The facility decided all four were capable of living in society with supervision and care. They were subsequently released to the care of the Spragues who had received approval for a family care home in 1974.

Family care home approval comes after application has been made to Sunmount. The application includes personal references which are checked. The home is then inspected for fire and safety hazards. After approval, the home is given an annual fire and safety inspection by a team from Sunmount not connected with family home care program. The state sets the standards. Also, the home is required to hold a fire drill at least once every three months.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputies said they were told by Mrs. Sprague that a fire drill was held within the two weeks before the fire.

In addition to the yearly fire and safety inspections, social workers visit each home at least once a month. The Sprague home had been visited several times before the fire.

The operators of a family care home are paid room and board at the rate of \$218.70 per month per resident.

The four victims, ranging in age from 18 through 62, were apparently so frightened by the flames, rescuers were unable to coax them out. The operator of the home and his three sons survived.

6 chapters receive K of C grants

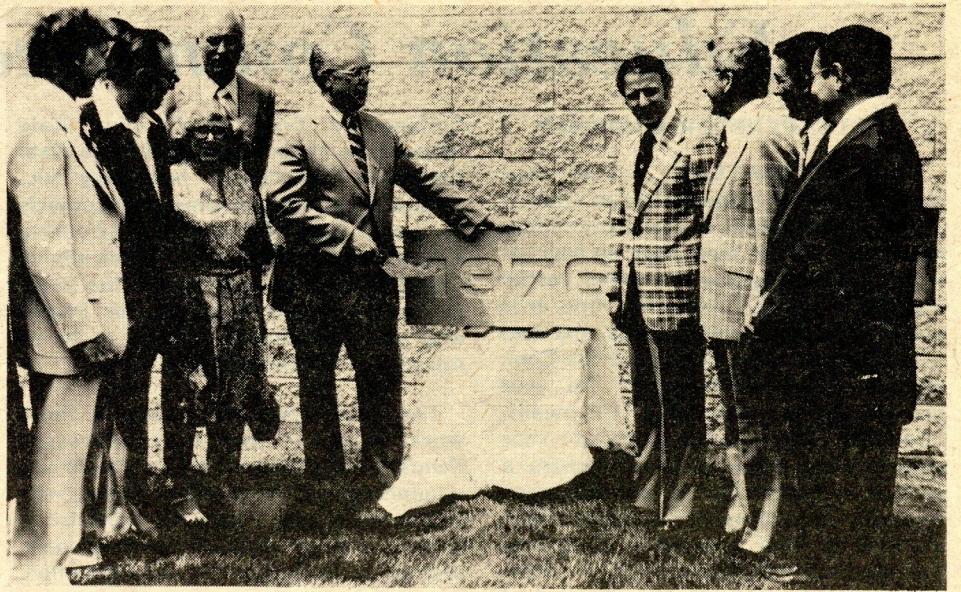
The Diocese of Ogdensburg has awarded grants totaling \$15,000 to organizations serving the retarded and handicapped.

The funds, recently received by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana of the Ogdensburg Diocese, were a gift from the Knights of Columbus of New York State. Since the program to help the retarded and handicapped began in 1969, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has received \$108,900. The entire amount has been given by the diocese to charitable and educational organizations and agencies in northern New York.

The 1977 grants from the Diocese of Ogdensburg were: Clinton County Association of Retarded Children, \$1,000; Catholic Charities, \$5,500; Religious Education Department, Diocese of Ogdensburg, \$3,500; St. Lawrence County Association for Retarded Children, \$1,000; Jefferson County Association for Retarded Children, \$1,000; Lewis County Association for Retarded Children, \$1,000; Essex County Association for Retarded Children, \$1,000; Franklin County Association for Retarded Children, \$1,000.

Bishop Brzana noted that the generosity of the Knights of Columbus has helped the Diocese of Ogdensburg to assist many different programs serving the retarded and handicapped in northern New York. County associations for retarded children have been assisted in developing new programs. Catholic Charities has received funds to expand its program of social services to children and adults with special needs. Many new religious education programs for the retarded have been established throughout the area through the assistance provided to the Department of Religious Education.

"The generosity of the Knights of Columbus is a wonderful example of Christian concern and action," Bishop Brzana said. "We are most grateful to the Knights for this state-wide program of helping the Church to assist those with special needs."



Suffolk County Board members, government officials and friends gather at the dedication of the comprehensive regional training center in Bohemia. From left, Mary Jo Iovino, outgoing A.H.R.C. President; Joe Dempsey, newly elected President; Harold O'Neill, A.H.R.C. Treasurer; Mildred Steinberg, Suffolk County Legislator; Reginald Minor, A.H.R.C. Senior Vice President; John Foley, Suffolk County Legislator; Kenneth LaValle, State Senator; Bernard C. Smith, State Senator; Robert Sansone, A.H.R.C. Executive Director; Augustus Nazarra, member A.H.R.C. building committee.

Bohemia dedication held

The official dedication of Suffolk A.H.R.C.'s comprehensive regional training center in Bohemia was held in early June, in conjunction with the association's annual meeting.

More than 600 people attended; including government officials, friends and members. Guests enjoyed cocktails and luncheon and toured the 75,000 square foot facility which houses a vocational training program serving over 500 people as well as comprehensive support services for all A.H.R.C. programs.

In a brief outdoor ceremony the cornerstone was laid in place, marking completion of A.H.R.C.'s largest facility in Suffolk County. State Senator Bernard C. Smith (R-Northport) described the center as "one of the most comprehensive and innovative facilities in the state and, quite possibly, the nation."

Following the dedication, A.H.R.C. officers and board members were installed in the traditional candlelight ceremony and award presentations were made.

NARC raises funds in Rochester

The National Association for Retarded Citizens has been selling pizzas by telephone in Monroe County to support its New York State operations, officials of the organization said yesterday.

But the Association for Retarded Citizens, a Rochester group, said that little if any, of the money collected by the national organization goes to the retarded in this area and none goes to the local group.

"They may say that part of the funds will go to help mentally retarded people, and that probably is true. I can't say it isn't. But the funds don't come here," John A. Regan, executive director of the Association for Retarded Citizens, said.

Dorothy E. Alger, president of the Monroe County chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, called the solicitation "unauthorized and unethical."

But Harry F. Wilkinson, executive director of the national organization's New York State office, said the money goes to state-wide efforts in research and prevention of retardation. The amount spent in specific counties can't be calculated, he said.

"In all states, the national effort is put together on a state-wide basis and you can't break it down by counties," he said.

Meanwhile, the woman who is running the telephone solicitation said she was told that part of the money would be spent locally.

"We're not trying to con anyone," said Hildreth Klouse of the Town of Farmington, Ontario County, whose solicitors have sold 500 pizzas.

Part of the problem seems to be caused by a split six years ago between the State Association for Retarded Children and the National Association for Retarded Citizens, persons on both sides said.

Negotiations to heal that division have been going on for several years, but until they're completed, the national group agreed not to solicit funds in the state, both agree.

However, the national organization felt that since it was spending money in the state, it should try to collect some too, Wilkinson said.

All of the money collected in the state will be spent in the state, Dean Unkefer, director of development for the national group, said.

"It's all being spent in New York," he said.

However, John W. Bertrand, assistant to the executive director of the state organization, said the national organization is milking New York State to pay off a \$600,000 deficit.

"Apparently they feel that getting money out of New York State is the answer to everything," he said.

"Not a nickel of what they raise will do any good in New York State, I'm sure," Bertrand said.

The person in the middle is Mrs. Klouse, who's giving the national organization 30 cents for every pizza she sells. They are refrigerated pizzas that have to be cooked first and cost \$2.50 for plain cheese and \$2.75 for cheese and pepperoni.

"I didn't know all this before I got into it," Mrs. Klouse said. "I've never gotten into a mess like I've gotten into now."

Education Committee Report

BETTY PENDLER, CHAIRMAN

TO ALL CHAPTERS. . . Does your chapter have a member whose child is excluded from school, or one whose child is riding on a bus for more than an hour, or whose child is getting dismissed earlier than the prescribed instruction time, or is placed in an inappropriate class, and does not know about the function of the Committee of the Handicapped? Do your parent members know what IEP means, COH, CSO, Chapter 853, or PL 94-142? Your chapter owes these parent members a service — that service is your education advocacy committee. This is just as vital a service as your residence program, workshop, early childhood etc. With all the new regulations, and increased parental involvement, we hope that each chapter will see it as their responsibility to provide such a service to this segment of their membership by having an education liaison committee or advocate, and that all chapters will have an **Education Column** in their newsletters.

Help for educational workshops and assistance in educational problems are available through these regional members of the education committee: **William Albertin, RD 2, Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010** — covering Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Fulton, Montgomery, Herkimer and Oneida.

Dr. James Johnson — 30 Morrison Avenue, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901 — covering St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton.

Dr. Lyle Lehman — 44 Westview Crescent, Geneseo, N.Y. 14484 — covering Wyoming, Livingston, Allegany, Ontario, Yates, Steuben, Seneca and Schuyler.

Betty Pender — 267 W. 70th Street, NYC 10023 — covering Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester.

Shirley Reynolds — 864 Colvin Blvd., Kenmore, N.Y. 14217 — covering Chautaugua, Niagara, Erie, Cattaraugus, Orleans, Genesee, Monroe and Wayne.

Thomas Scholl — 701 Forest Drive, N. Syracuse, N.Y. 13212 — covering Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, Cortland and Tompkins.

Georgia Sullivan — 11 City Terrace North, Newburgh, N.Y. 12550 — covering Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, Ulster, Orange, Sullivan.

Marilyn Wessels — 160 Clayton Road, Schenectady, N.Y. 12304 — covering Rensselaer, Schenectady, Albany, Schoharie, Otsego, Chenango, Broome, Tioga and Chemung.

PLEASE USE OUR SERVICES TO HELP YOU GIVE SERVICES TO YOUR MEMBERS.

Some activities of the Education Committee included two workshops on Rights in Education, coordinated by Georgia Sullivan and Marilyn Wessels, and an Early Childhood Workshop by Shirley Reynolds, Mt. St. Mary College and the N.Y. State Association for Retarded Children as well as Russel Sage

College of Troy, N.Y. Our State Association, in cooperation with the State Education Department, held very successful workshops covering such subjects as Laws and Regulations Affecting Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions — Committee on the Handicapped — Adult Education for People who are Handicapped — How to be an Advocate — Parents Rights.

The important thing about these workshops was that they addressed themselves to parents, professionals and administrators, all of whom raised very interesting issues. Today the expertise of parents is being sought by professionals, and now in the light of the new legislation, it is vital that the two groups, parents and educators break down the barriers.

If your chapter is near any colleges or Divisions of Special Education, the Education Committee would welcome the opportunity of getting together a cooperative workshop. Please let us know — this will help bring publicity to your chapter — information to your parents, and new insights to school personnel.

Current brochures you can order from the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

EDUCATION

"Your Right to Your Rights in Education" (\$2.00 single copy)

"The revised Advocates Guide to New York State Education Laws for the Mentally Retarded and other Developmentally Disabled" (\$1.50 single copy)

ADVOCACY FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

Book 1 Community Organization
Book 2 Strategies for Problem Solving
Book 3 Public Relations
(\$1.50 for the three books)

20 per cent discount when ordering 10 or more copies of these publications.

Money order or check payable to **New York State Association for Retarded Children** must accompany order.

Address: 175 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10010.

"Your Right to Rights in Education"

"My child has been excluded from School"

"The school district wants to mainstream our child. What is mainstreaming?"

"All our child does in school all day is color. We know he can do more."

"What do all these initials mean, IEP? COH? CSO? Chapter 853? PL 94-142?"

Exclusion, mainstreaming, inappropriate programming are just a few of the problems which each day confront parents of children who are retarded. The New York State Association for Retarded Children, Education Committee, has published a handbook entitled:

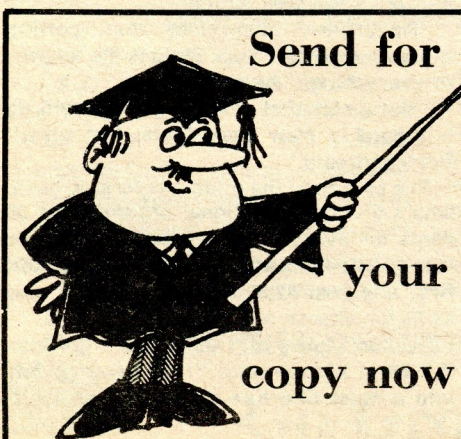
YOUR RIGHT TO YOUR RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

Your right to your rights in education is a step by-step guide for helping parents overcome some of the problems they face in obtaining a free appropriate education of the problems they face in obtaining a free appropriate education for their children.

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Mainstreaming
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"YOUR RIGHT TO YOUR RIGHTS IN EDUCATION" is a MUST for every Chapter Education Committee, member, social worker, parent and other advocate and it is available from:

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10010

Please send us _____ copies at \$2.00 each. Enclosed is check for \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
Affiliation _____

Progress not easy

Excerpts from a letter appearing in a Kingston, New York newspaper point out the long hard road in progress for the retarded. The letter is an eloquent plea for educators and fairminded people everywhere to express their concerns for justice by action and can apply, not only to the situation in Ulster County, but everywhere the needs of the retarded are unmet:

There is both good news and bad news for Ulster County residents who care about how our retarded children are faring.

What a long way we have come in the past 25 years! In that relatively short period of time these children have emerged from behind walls of shame and ignorance, and, having been given the chance, have proved over and over that they can learn, and can contribute productively to their community. Not only are they far better off today, but our humanitarian society is the better for having given them a chance.

A big part of today's better world for these children is their integration into regular schools, where although they have their own classrooms, they can feel like part of the rest of the world. They and their normal counterparts profit by this experience.

The Marbletown Elementary School, where for the past two years, two classes of trainable mentally retarded children have found a happy place of educational coexistence, is a prime example of how well it can work. That's the good news.

Now for the bad news. These same children will, when they have finished their elementary years, be "promoted" to isolation and second-rate facilities because the school districts of this county cannot find a place for them in a building where other children go to school.

There are two classes (a total of only some 20 children) who still go to school in a small, deficient, isolated and superannuated building located dangerously near the Rondout Creek in Rosendale, a building that was previously abandoned.

These children each day suffer the loneliness and separation of the unenlightened bad old days.

These youngsters must be bussed from all parts of Ulster County (except Kingston), some travelling for as long as an hour and a half each way. For this reason, the school attended must be centrally located. Otherwise transportation costs soar, and a toll is taken by the stupefying effect of even longer trips.

Please, educators and concerned and fairminded people of our school district boards, help us to get some action that will take these last few handicapped children of our county out of the darkness of isolation, and give them a chance to join the rest of the world. They are not less deserving than others. Let them show what good neighbors, good citizens and good workers they can be.

Past is prologue

the convention

at Grossinger's.

New definitions for education

Jack Wilson, who teaches students with learning disabilities, came up with this "New Teacher's Guide to Contemporary Educational Terms." It is reprinted here by special permission of Learning, the Magazine for Creative Teaching, October 1975. Copyright 1975 by Education Today Company, Inc. 530 University Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94301.

Alternative school: Another style of education based on the philosophy that it is blessed to annoy the establishment.

Auditory discrimination: When students are excluded from normal participation because they talk funny.

Back-to-school night: Open House No. 1, placed early enough in the year to give the teacher a good excuse for having nothing to report on the progress of the students.

Bathrooms: Small, dark cubicles used to store broken plumbing.

Clumsy child: Any child.

Cubicles: Small spaces where students may store their personal belongings until they are stolen.

Developmental aphasia: The ability to see what lies ahead and the refusal to participate in it.

Dyslexia: Inability to learn to read for no good reason.

Educationally handicapped child: Student who does not know how to pretend he is learning.

Educational philosophy: Theory of learning. Unrelated to practice.

Expressive language: Language forbidden in school.

Grad school: Like grade school but shorter.

Individualization: Thirty-four separate headaches rather than one huge migraine.

Individual differences: Those attributes which cause failure.

Innovation: Doing something inconsistent with the supply requisition.

Integration: See music

Learning centers: Like doughnut centers, largely imaginary.

Music: Formerly considered important human endeavor, now expendable.

Nongraded classroom: Built on a sloping site.

Ungraded classroom: A variety of problems in one group.

Open House: Open House No. 2, placed late enough in the year so as to make any comment useless.

Playground: Defoliated space covered with a dummy substance which attracts garbage. Students are permitted to injure themselves in this space only when adequately supervised.

Principal: Former teacher trying to get even.

Psycho-linguistic disability: When you think you can't talk right.

Relevance: Orienting subject matter to ecology.

Ritalin: A drug which renders hyperactive children less annoying to hypersensitive adults.

Stubborn child: One who refuses to enjoy what he does not enjoy.

Student choice: System in which children are taught to decide for themselves which command to obey first.

Supply requisition: Obsolete form used to order inadequate quantities of inferior, outdated materials which arrive too late to be useful.

Teacher: Former student trying to get even.

Teaching methods: Opposite of Educational Philosophy.

T.L.C.: Tender Loving Care. Precious substance, sometimes used as substitute for teaching.

Visual discrimination: Separation of students by color.

Visual-perception problem: Condition in which student fails to see eye-to-eye with teacher.



Ellie Pattison presented certificate of recognition to Bura and Edith Stiles. Looking on from left are Carl Hawkinson, Executive Director; Ned Pattison; and Ernie Tetrault, M.C.

Schenectady celebrates 25th

At a banquet in June, Schenectady Chapter celebrated its 25th Anniversary since being chartered in June, 1952.

Featured at the banquet were presentations by Ellie Pattison, Sr. Vice President and N.E. Regional Vice President, of certificates of recognition to the charter members in attendance.

Receiving certificates were Mr. and Mrs. Bura Stiles. Bura and Edith were instrumental in the organization of the Chapter when it split away from the original Capitol District Chapter.

Also receiving recognition, were the charter members Mrs. Nathan Bilgore, Mrs. Libby Buyce, Mrs. Frank Buzzo, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo DeFelippo, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hertzman, Dr. and Mrs. August Korkosz, Mr. and Mrs. Donato Matricardi, Marguerite Navarette, Bertha Silverman and Bertha Westfall.

Master of Ceremonies for the occasion was TV Channel 6 News Anchorman, Ernie Tetrault. The dinner, followed by dancing to the music of the Dave Jarvis Quartet, was a festive and happy occasion for the many Schenectady members and

guests from Rensselaer and Albany Chapters who attended.

Committee members organizing the celebration were Peg Buzzo, Lillian Goodrow, Dorothy Murray, Marilyn Wessels, and Chairman, Dave Lewis.

Clinton plans hostels

The Association for Retarded Children plans to build six hostels for the mentally retarded in Clinton County by 1980.

The hostels, planned for 10-12 persons each, will house, among others, 36 former patients from Sunmount Developmental Center in Tupper Lake.

Gladys McShaane who is planning ARC's effort, said the new demand is caused by "deinstitutionalization" a new policy of the state Department of Mental Hygiene.

"The thinking at the top is: it's cheaper to maintain people in their communities, and better for them, than to maintain big facilities."

The first hostel is "in blueprint" and is scheduled for construction this year, although a site is still being sought. It is planned for 12 severely retarded adults with additional handicaps. It will include wheelchair ramps.

One of the hostels is earmarked for 10 to 12 young mentally retarded adults with "acting out behavior." The third will house "more highly functioning" clients now living in family care homes throughout Clinton County. There is now one hostel operating in Clinton County which shelters 10 individuals. 14 others, housed by ARC, live in family care homes.

Up to 50 per cent of the operating budgets of the planned hostels will be paid by the state Department of Mental Hygiene. Welfare benefits of clients or, if they are employed, their salaries, make up the balance.

Long-term priorities for the mentally retarded considered by the ARC are an intensive-care nursing home and "respite housing" for parents with mentally retarded children living at home to allow a break.

Because of cultural and economic deprivation, as many as 2,400 of Clinton County's residents are retarded to a degree. This is higher than the 3 percent nationally.

The recently-named Clinton County Planning Committee on Housing, of which Mrs. McShaane is a member, is monitoring the ARC project.

Seasons may affect risk of mongolism

Writing in a recent issue of the British medical journal, The Lancet, Dr. Dwight T. Janerich and Dr. Herbert I. Jacobson propose as the cause of Down's syndrome, "seasonal tissue changes in the estrogen cells of the female endocrine system." Dr. Janerich is associated with the State Health Department's Cancer Control Bureau, and Dr. Jacobson is a member of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the medical college.

The two scientists base their theory on epidemiological and clinical studies which show that seasonal fluctuations in women's ovarian hormone levels seem to coincide with similar fluctuations in frequency of Down's syndrome cases, by month of conception. In both instances, the variability is several-fold.

The authors cite supporting evidence that oral contraceptives (which are artificial hormones) taken by the mother before pregnancy have been proven to cause chromosome abnormalities in fetal cells, usually resulting in spontaneous abortion of the fetus.

Dr. Janerich and Dr. Jacobson postulate that, in similar fashion, variations in

women's endocrine hormone levels also affect chromosome division, resulting in Down's syndrome conceptions.

Their study shows that the monthly rate of Down's syndrome conceptions is lowest during early spring (March and April) and early autumn (September and October) when women's ovarian hormone levels are also at their low point.

If the cause of this seasonality is proven to be the result of endocrine factors, the authors claim, planning to conceive a pregnancy during these low-risk periods could reduce the risk of giving birth to a child with Down's syndrome.

The authors also note that, "The risk of having a child with Down's syndrome rises dramatically with increasing age, and there is some concern that increased use of (oral) contraception to delay pregnancy might result in a higher frequency of Down's syndrome births."

They call for detailed laboratory and clinical explorations of their theory.

There are an estimated 250-300 Down's syndrome births in New York State each year.

Rights in Ed forum held

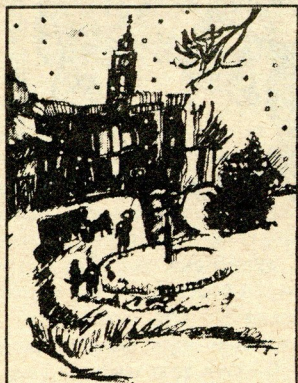
On April 23rd, the State Association and Russell Sage College, in cooperation with the Office for the Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions of the State Education Department, presented a program on "Rights in Education" at an all day meeting at the college.

Dr. Harry Little, Professor of Special Education and Director of Special Education Programs, and Ellie Pattison, Northeast Regional Vice-President, gave the welcoming remarks.

A discussion on "Laws and Regulations Affecting the Education of Children with Handicaps," was held under the mode of Marilyn Wessels, a member of the Education Committee as moderator. Other discussions were: "Committee on the Handicapped: What is it? What are the responsibilities of the COH? Who are the members and what are their roles? with William Staples, Bureau for Regional Programs as moderator; and "Adult Education for People who are Handicapped" with Rachel Friedman, Director of Rehabilitation of the Schenectady County Chapter as moderator.

Order Cards Now!

1977 Award Winners



Card No. 57802W1

Created by James Brunson, Sullivan County, N.Y.
Charming and colorful old fashioned scene complete with horse-drawn carriage and snowfall. White envelope.
Inside: "Wishing you all the Joys of the Season and Happiness in the Coming Year."

These card designs were selected from an Art Contest of Christmas subjects created by the retarded especially for this program.

25 cards for \$4.00
Add \$1.00 for each 25 cards imprinted.



Card No. 57803W1

Created by Stephen Warchol, Whitesboro, N.Y.
Lovely and delicate watercolor painting on a white background, framed in green. White envelope.
Inside: "Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year."



Another view of a historic moment. Governor Carey hands a pen to Senator William Conklin after the signing of the bill creating a separate office of Mental Retardation. Dr. Kevin Cahill (seated) and, from left, Joseph T. Weingold, NYS ARC Executive Director; Senator Tarky Lombardi; State ARC President George Hirsch and Senator Padavan look on. Story, Page 1.

TO: NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION FOR
RETARDED CHILDREN
175 Fifth Ave.
New York, New York 10010

Please send me the following
cards by mentally retarded artists:

No.	Style, Price & Message	Amt. Enclosed
Boxes		

57802W1: 25 cards at
\$4.00 — Wishing you all
the Joys of the Season
and Happiness in the
Coming Year

57803W1: 25 cards at
\$4.00 — Holiday Greet-
ings and Best Wishes
for a Happy New Year

57804W1: 25 cards at
\$4.00 — May every Joy
and Blessing Be Yours
at Christmas Time and
Throughout the New
Year

57805W1: 25 cards at
\$4.00 — Greeting you
with Warm Good
Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year

57806W1: 25 cards at
\$4.00 — Season's Greet-
ings with Peace, Health
and Happiness Through-
out the New Year

ARC; 50 cards at \$5.95 -
Special assortment fea-
turing best selling de-
signs by mentally re-
tarded persons
Imprinting not available
for this assortment.

Add \$1.00 for each 25
cards imprinted

TOTAL Enclosed: _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

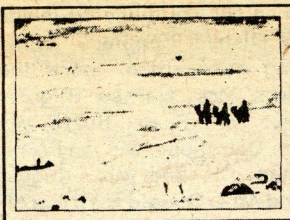
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Favorite Award WINNERS

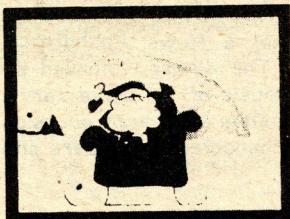
Designed by the retarded
and produced to help the
retarded.

25 Cards for \$4.00
Add \$1.00 for each
25 cards imprinted



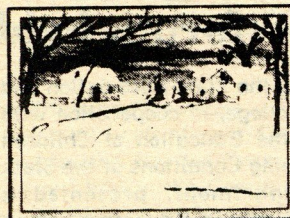
CARD NO. 57804W1
Delicate painting in pastel
colors depicts the wise
men following the star to
Bethlehem while a tiny lamb
looks on. White envelope.

Inside: "May every joy
and blessing be yours at
Christmas time and
throughout the New
Year."



CARD NO. 57805W1
A delightful Santa waves
from his sled in front of a
bright yellow sun. On a
white background. White
envelope.

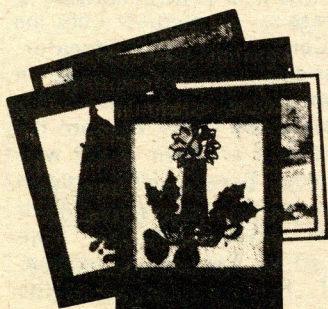
Inside: "Greeting you with
warm good wishes for
Christmas and the New
Year."



CARD NO. 57806W1
A painting of the season,
expressing the loveliness
of a snow scene in pastel
shades. White envelope.

Inside: "Season's Greet-
ings with Peace, Health
and Happiness throughout
the New Year."

Special ASSORTMENT



Our own Special
Assortment Box
of 50 cards
featuring original
award-winning
and best selling
designs by
retarded persons.

Order - Card No. ARC
Box of 50 Cards and
envelopes for \$5.95
Imprinting not
available for this
assortment.



The power of protest was felt in Albany when this group gathered in a show of strength against proposed cuts in funds for rehabilitation programs. Story, Page 3.

Letters to the Editor

COMMITTEES FOR HANDICAPPED

From Ronkonkoma, New York we received a letter written by Mary Larberg commenting on the report on the committees for the handicapped reported on in the last issue of OCV:

I have just completed reading the June issue of Our Children's Voice.

I enjoyed it very much and it is very helpful. The article on the new education law for the Handicapped Committee really helped me to understand it more fully. We are now going through that at the present time. It is still so new I don't believe the schools fully understand it themselves.

Thank you for making an informative paper available to parents of the retarded.

THANKS FOR REVIEW

Dean Burton Blatt comments on the review of his book in the last issue of OCV:

I am very grateful for the review of *Revolt of the Idiots*. In a few words, you said a great deal. Obviously, the review pleased me very much.

KUDOS TO OUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In a recent letter, Louise McQuade of the New York State Council of Organizations for the Handicapped gives just praise, indeed, to our Education Committee for their brochure, "Your Rights to Your Rights in Education."

"Dear Mr. Weingold: I recently had the pleasure of browsing through a copy of 'Your Right to Your Rights in Education', put out by your Association. It was a most enjoyable experience for me from the point of view of a parent of a handicapped child and also as President of NYSCOH. I think your handbook is one of the most comprehensive and well thought out ones I've seen. I would appreciate it if you would send a copy to me. If it is at all possible, would you also send an additional twenty-seven copies for distribution to our entire membership at our September meeting.

My congratulations on a job well done and my sincere thanks for your attention to this matter."

Rockland newspaper says "let sun shine in"

The Rockland County Mental Health Board began setting its 1978 program priorities behind closed doors. A Rockland Journal news reporter and a photographer were asked to leave the meeting by chairman R. Clinton Taplin, who called the session a "retreat," after the board spent 45 minutes discussing the propriety of excluding them.

At issue was the state's three month old Open Meetings Act, also known as the Sunshine Law. It requires "every meeting of a public body (to be) open to the general public," and lists eight exceptional topics that may be discussed in executive session.

The establishment of program priorities that determine which services will continue, which will be curtailed, and which need improvement, is not among them.

Robert Freeman, executive director of the state Committee on Access to Public Records, said the board was evading the law. The committee is the agency that administers and interprets the act for both the press and government bodies.

"They are simply calling a meeting by another name, when they call it a 'retreat.' They are using the adverbs and adjectives

in the law to circumvent its obvious intent; to open meetings to the public," Freeman said.

The preamble of the law to support his contention that a board need not take a vote to be transacting public business says that citizens should be able to "attend and listen to the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy."

"From my point of view, it does not matter whether the board intends to act at the 'retreat' or not. It is still a meeting, under the law."

Dr. Bert Pepper, director of the county Department of Mental Health, said, department staff would be inhibited in evaluations of their programs and board members themselves might be inhibited in their discussion if the meeting were open.

The Journal-News decided to press the right of the public to attend the meeting because of the agenda.

"If there is any chance that a public body is going to talk about public money, the public should not be excluded. If it is discussing priorities, then, ultimately, it is talking about how tax dollars will be spent, and that is the taxpayers' business," said William Chanin, editor of the newspaper.

ARC applies for HUD grants

A new application has been made by the ARC to HUD in Washington for funds to construct 30 hostels with about 10 units in each.

This is the result of the new fund reservations for direct loan under Section 202 of the National Housing Act. It is designed to assist non-profit groups to construct or rehabilitate housing for the elderly or handicapped.

The State Association applied for a similar grant last year for 10 hostels in the Mid-Hudson area which was turned down by HUD.

The present application is a result of negotiations between Ed Emmer, Jerry

Weingold and HUD to apply on behalf of 17 chapters who have requested to be included in this go-round. This does not preclude other chapters from applying individually and some may have done so.

The chapters involved are Broome-Tioga, Chautauqua, Dutchess, Erie, Fulton, Herkimer, Madison, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schoharie, Suffolk, Tompkins and Warren-Washington.

One half of one per-cent (not to exceed \$10,000) of a total unapproved mortgage amount is the minimum capital investment of Section 202 Borrowers. Total amount requested is 7½ million dollars.

Special Olympics held

With a flourish of trumpets and the lighting of the traditional torch, the 1977 New York State Special Olympics got underway at Wagner College on Staten Island.

In addition to the college, where the athletes were also lodged, South Beach Psychiatric Center, the College of Staten Island and the Madison Square Garden provided the setting for the track and field athletes, swimmers, and other competitors from 29 regions of the state.

More than 1,100 volunteers — local teenagers, firemen, Legionnaires and school personnel — were on hand to make the 1,500 Special Olympians feel welcome as well as to smooth the competition schedule.

These Olympians once again provided the kind of true Olympic spirit envisioned by the founders of the world event as they showed joy and satisfaction in taking part, whether a medalist or just gamely finishing the race.

The Special Olympics are a total ex-

perience for the thousands of mentally retarded young people who take part each year. Winners are recognized but all feel an achievement.

One competitor in the 50 yard dash was enjoying the day so much that he doubled up in laughter in the midst of his event. He was out of the running for a medal but did not seem to mind.

Courage and determination were also evident by the quadruple amputee who not only competed in the wheelchair race but managed to throw a softball 20 yards.

There were a host of celebrities on hand to honor the competitors, Mayor Abraham Beame of New York greeted the athletes and the Kennedy family, as always, was faithfully represented as Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith circulated among the youngsters.

There are no team scores but all of the Department of Mental Hygiene's developmental centers took part in the events leading to the State Olympics and were well represented there.

Dutchess reaches 100 in workshop

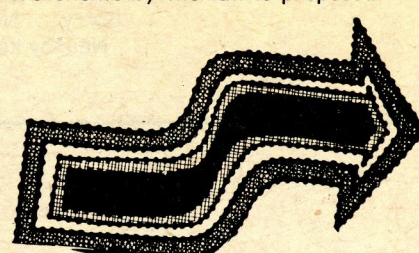
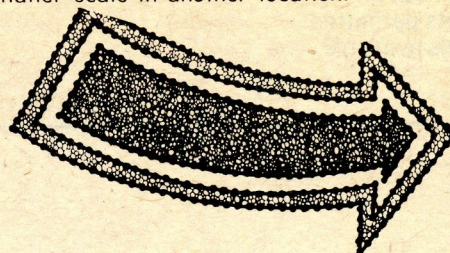
The Dutchess County Chapter workshop in Poughkeepsie welcomed its 100th client recently. According to the director of the workshop, it's not easy to get into it. Applications have to be made through the County Mental Hygiene Department. Many stipulations must be met.

All those accepted must have an IQ of 65 or less but what is really important is how well the individual can function. Although competitive tasks seem to be the ones most of the clients can do easily, many of them are able to do rather complicated jobs.

Before going into its new building, the workshop was operating on a much smaller scale in another location.

The 100 persons now working at the workshop come from all parts of Dutchess County. Some live at their own homes, some in family care homes and some at the Wassaic Developmental Center in Wassaic. Clients in the workshop range in age from 21 to 73. Most of the people who work there are transported by the chapter except those from Wassaic, for whom the state provides transportation.

Plans are underway for expansion of the workshop. An additional 2,200 sq. ft. of space is planned and the addition of 20 more clients by the fall is proposed.



CONVENTION '77

The Past is Prologue

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 4-9 p.m. — Registration \$5 — lobby
- 7 p.m. — Dinner
- 8:30 p.m. — Meeting of the Board of Governors — Conference Center

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 10 a.m. — All day registration — lobby
- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Board of Governors meeting continues — Conference Center
- 1:00 - 2:30 — Luncheon
- 2:30-5:30 — Meeting of Chapter Presidents, Treasurers and Board Members with Executive Directors — Conference Center
- 7:00 p.m. — Dinner
- 8:30 p.m. — Convention Convenes — Conference Center

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. — Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. — Business Session
- 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. — Lunch
- 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. — All Workshops Presented
- 4:15-5:45 p.m. — All Workshops Repeated

Workshops — Each "Leader" will be asked to have only 2 or 3 panellists to assure brevity of presentation and plenty of time for questions

WORKSHOPS

1. Community Residences — Chaired by Anne Kraus
 2. Institutions — chaired by Frances Reville
 3. Education — Advocacy — Chaired by Betty Pendler
 4. Guardianship — Chaired by Rober J. Hodgson
 5. Community Awareness — chaired by Arthur Gasman. Early Intervention — chaired by Suffolk County
- 6:30 p.m. — Cocktail Party — Playhouse
 - 7:30 p.m. — Dinner — North Dining Room
 - 10:15 p.m. — Show in Nightclub

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 8:30 - 10 a.m. — Breakfast
- 10:30 to Noon — Meeting of the New Board — Conference Center

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NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

Cordially Invites You To Grossinger's

THURSDAY TO SUNDAY
OCTOBER 13 TO 16, 1977

Full American Plan
(3 full meals daily)
Lavish Cocktail Party

CHECK-IN TIME 4:00 P.M.
CHECK-OUT TIME 2:00 P.M.

RATES

MAIN COMPLEX ACCOMMODATIONS (with private bath & TV)

Per Person Per Night
Minimum 2 Night Stay
Plus 7% NYS Sales Tax

	Double Occ.	Single Occ.
Harry G., Paul G., Jennie G.,	\$51.00	\$ N.A.
Pool, Ritz East	\$46.00	\$69.00
3RD or 4TH Person in Room		
Infant to age 2		\$10.00
Child to age 13		\$21.00
Adult		\$29.00

One night reservations subject to availability and additional charge of \$7.00 per person, will be added to the regular rates of the Hotel.

Gratuities: \$5.05 per person, per day will be added to the rate for Dining Room Personnel, Chambermaids, and related costs.

Reservation Deposit: \$15.00 per person required.

Refunded on 72 hour advance notice. Those reservations received 3 weeks prior will be confirmed.

All others subject to availability.

Make deposit check payable to: GROSSINGER'S and mail with reservation to:
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NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

OCTOBER 13 to 16, 1977

Separate form or facsimile for each person except Mr. & Mrs. and children sharing parent's room (please type or print).

Circle one:

Mr. Ms. M/M

Address

City

State

Zip

Home

Phone ()

Business

Phone ()

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

AMT. PC () CC () MO ()

For:

ARR / / INT DEP#

Arriving / / Departing / /

AFTER 4:00 P.M.

BEFORE 2:00 P.M.

Enter Rate Choice:

First

Second

If rate requested is unavailable reservation will be made at nearest available rate.

IF OTHER THAN MR. & MRS., DOUBLE ROOM TO BE SHARED WITH:

Above person MUST also send in form

CHILDREN:

Name Age

Name Age



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