

Our Children's Voice

Retarded Children Can Be Helped

Vol. XXX No. 1

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

January, 1978

"Equal funding for all retarded"

Convention adopts 14 point legislative program

The state convention at Grossinger's, October 13-16, 1977, unanimously adopted a 14-point legislative program highlighting the elimination of inequities in funding for the mentally retarded being deinstitutionalized and for those who have remained in the community.

More than 400 delegates voiced their dissatisfaction with "the starvation rate" of the state's community service funding for mentally retarded persons who were never institutionalized against the 100 per cent funding for community services for those who are deinstitutionalized. A resolution states: This Association calls upon its members to urge their representatives in the New York State Legislature and the Governor to implement a legislative program which insures equity in funding for both our institutionalized and community-based residents.

The legislative proposal adopted is for reimbursement to communities by the state, at the rate of 75 per cent for mental retardation services, to be provided locally and for the Mental Hygiene Law to be so amended. Now the state reimburses such community services only at 50 per cent. Thus, side by side, in the same facility, there may be two retarded persons. The state pays 100 per cent for one because he had been in an institution and 50 per cent for the other because he had not been in a institution.

EDUCATION LAW AMENDMENTS HIGHLIGHTED

Other proposals in the program are: to prevent restrictive zoning ordinances against the utilization of any building for hostels or group homes for the mentally retarded; education of the handicapped to be mandatory from age 3 to 21 as required by Federal law; and these amendments to the Education Law, Article 89:

The number of parents on Committees on the Handicapped should equal that of the non-parents.

The impartial arbitrator shall be chosen by the parent and the school administrator and, if they cannot agree on the choice of the arbitrator, each shall choose one arbitrator and the two shall then choose a third.

Provision for providing funds for the training of parent members of Committees on the Handicapped.

The formula for state aid to school districts for the education of the handicapped should be changed to provide for payment by the state of total excess costs.

OVR AND STATE FUNDING CRITICIZED

Much dissatisfaction was also voiced with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the state's funding of long-term employment of the handicapped. Under the law, the state may pay up to \$1500 but has never paid more

than \$1000. The legislation proposed is that the law be amended to mandate to \$1500 and make payment up to \$3000 permissive.

OTHER ELEMENTS OF RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION

— Provision that interest on any mortgage for the acquisition, construction, or remodelling of a facility to serve the mentally retarded be a reimbursable expense under contracts with mental health boards.

— Provision that Community Mental Health Boards must hold public hearings on their proposed programs at least 30 days before submitting them to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

— Provision that school districts be permitted to transport persons over 21 years of age to and from rehabilitation facilities.

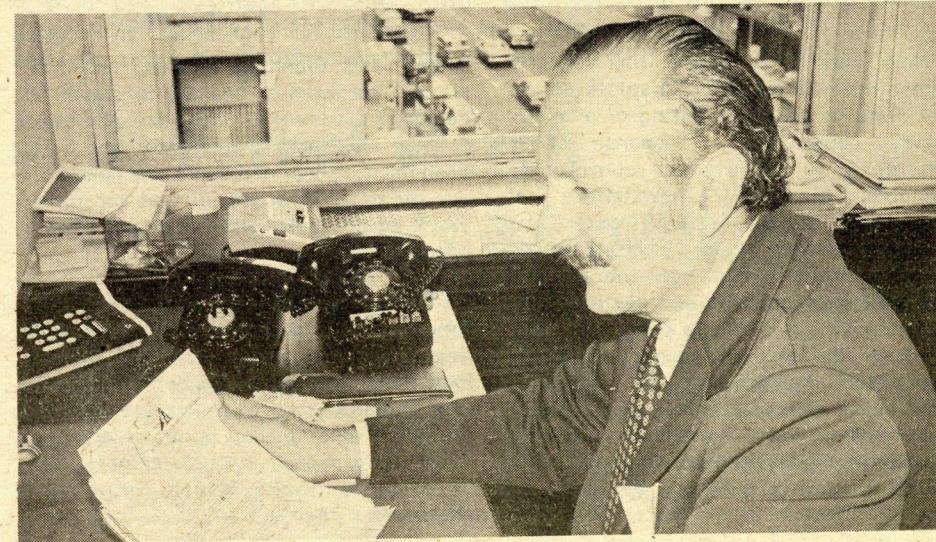
— Provision that life insurance companies may not refuse to insure the lives of mentally retarded persons up to an aggregate limit of \$1500 on the sole ground of retardation.

— Provision that the Criminal Procedure Law be conformed to recent decisions on constitutional rights in regard to ability to stand trial.

— Provision that parents of non-institutionalized mentally retarded persons, as well as parents of "deinstitutionalized" mentally retarded persons, may qualify as "family care providers".

— Provision that the state shall allow horse racing tracks one additional day of racing during which the state's share of the parimutuel receipts shall be divided among agencies serving the developmentally disabled. (See New Jersey law on Charity Racing Day for the Developmentally Disabled.)

One of the matters brought up at the convention requires remedial legislation. It is the law of 1977 which, in effect, eliminated the responsibility of school districts to provide transportation to public school classes for children who reside in state institutions. In the opinion of the Legislative Committee, this is manifestly unconstitutional and legislation will be introduced to repeal it.



George G. Hirsch

Hirsch re-elected

Delegates at the Grossinger Convention unanimously elected George G. Hirsch for a third term as president of the State Association.

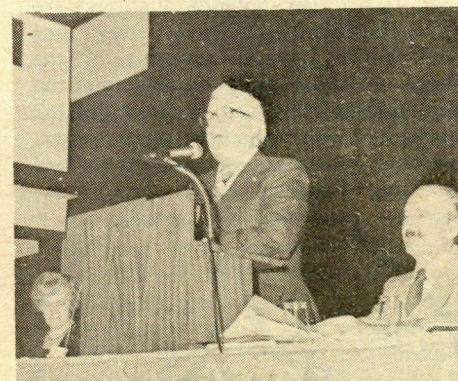
In addition, these members of the Executive Committee were elected: Eleanor Pattison, Vice President, Northeast Region (Rensselaer); Hy Clurfeld, Vice President, Southeast Region (Nassau); Al Cappuccilli, Vice President, Central Region (Onondaga); Shirley Reynolds, Vice President, Western Region

(West Seneca Developmental Center); Vicki Friel, Secretary, (Putnam); Frances W. Reville, Treasurer, (Welfare League); Dr. Irving Caminsky, Assistant Treasurer (New York City) and Elliot L. Aronin, Immediate Past President (Nassau).

Non-officer members of the Executive Committee are: Ellen Maroun (Franklin County); Karin Burgess (Cortland) and James Murphy (New York City).

"Employer of Year"

Sen. Conklin accepts for N.Y.S. Senate



Senator William T. Conklin accepting "Employer of the Year Award". L. to R. Frances Reville, Treasurer, Senator Conklin, and George G. Hirsch, President.

The convention awarded the Employer of the Year award to the New York State Senate for its senate mail service employing 10 messengers, 3 printer's helpers, 2 mail helpers, and 1 assembly mail department helper. The salaries for these

retarded persons range from \$5500 to \$7500 a year.

The program was initiated by Louis Russo, head of the Senate mail service, and endorsed by Senator Conklin and the Senate. It was made an integral part of the entire service procedure in the legislature. Presently, Louis Russo is discussing the possibility of 15 to 20 mentally retarded

adults to be hired as full-time maintenance people by the state to maintain portions of the Mall Plaza. "These are all retarded who are currently unemployable", said Russo.

Senator William T. Conklin, Deputy Majority Leader, accepted the award on behalf of the Senate at the full meeting of the convention on Friday evening. As usual, he enthralled the audience with his talk.

Frank Sheridan, president of Albany County Chapter, accepted the Certificate of Recognition to Louis Russo on Russo's behalf at the Saturday night banquet.

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Reorganization

Making predictions about the effects of the reorganization program are only as valid as those who are making the predictions. We all remember the various descriptions of an elephant given by five blind men, depending on what they felt of the elephant.

The same applies to reorganization.

If you feel a major forward thrust will result and this is a mechanism to do it, then the bill is a good one. Maybe you feel

nothing has been done, nothing can be done and we should let things go as they are but try to improve them. If everyone subscribes to this, it is going to fail.

This Association, workers, its parents, all feel it will succeed because we are determined it will succeed. We are determined we will not only be involved in, but also direct, its progress to make this measure as meaningful as it was intended to be.

From your president.....

George C. Hirsch

New York City Chapter has recently joined many of its sister Chapters across the State in feeling the sting of a misinformed community in response to our attempts to create a community residence. Many of the newsletters that now come into the State Office are expressing the great emphasis being placed on the community residence program, and the difficulty many of us are meeting in the implementation of these programs. Our situation in Astoria, Queens has really brought this home to me.

I believe every Chapter must make a special effort to have all of its members become advocates on behalf of the community residence program. We must ask our members to be willing to go before

zoning and planning boards, or other similar community boards, to speak on behalf of the mentally retarded. We must ask our neighbors and friends, who have been the next door neighbors and friends of our mentally retarded citizens for many years, to add their voices on behalf of such programs.

Finally, if all attempts at education and conciliation fail and we are faced with demonstrations, perhaps we need to meet to demonstrate against the demonstrators, who so quickly forget that there, but for the grace of God, they might be going.

Our continued, united efforts are needed, to make these important programs a reality.

Board of Governors considers mini-institution policy

Several Chapters are considering, or already embarking on, the creation of intensive care facilities for the mentally retarded to house and give care almost exclusively to severely and profoundly retarded persons coming out of the institutions. These programs pose several serious questions; the first practical and the other ideological.

The consideration before the New York State Board of Governors, from the ideological point of view, is "should we as a State Association give our blessings to the development by the Chapters of what, in effect, are mini institutions? Assuming that such mini institutions are desired, should that be a function of our Chapters? Furthermore, how would the resources of the Chapter in terms of serving the over 90 per cent of the retarded, not severely and profoundly retarded, be affected by expenditures of resources and energies in this direction?

And, if assuming that mini institutions are a good objective, should not the State be doing this?"

This brings the New York State Association for Retarded Children to the practical problem of the real estate. If it is decided this is indeed a worthy objective, and the ARC Chapters can fit this into their programs without affecting the totality, why shouldn't New York State undertake the provision of the physical facility with a contract for the Chapters to operate, rather than heavy financial commitments either directly by the Chapter or through a holding company.

This raises even further questions. If the State will furnish such physical facilities for the deinstitutionalization of severely and profoundly retarded persons, and pay 100 per cent for such services, why should they not do the same for the population in the community? Though deinstitutionalization serves a State purpose, furnishing of services to those in the community also serves a State purpose.

The major question is whether or not the ARC endorses creation of mini in-

stitutions, and whether these should be created by the State or by the Chapters. Another consideration is the statement of policy concerning equal treatment in terms of financial aid for services of the non-institutionalized with the institutionalized or deinstitutionalized mentally retarded.

State begins suits for fees

A topic of considerable interest at the convention was the action of the State Department of Mental Hygiene and the Attorney General's Office in beginning suits against parents. The suits are for fees incurred for their children before August 5, 1977. That's the date Governor Carey signed the bill eliminating fees thereafter.

The Association contends such fees are unconstitutional because they are discriminatory against parents of the retarded in relationship to parents of the blind and the deaf. Also, the intent of the legislature was "remedial" in character. Therefore, it appears past due obligations should be forgiven.



Don't Be Quiet As A Mouse!



Jerry Weingold congratulates Bob Maurer on his award. Looking on are Marc Brandt, executive director of the host chapter, Sullivan County, and Ruth Bennett, President.

Maurer, Stevason

receive awards

Nothing really happens without the efforts of a great many people. This is especially true in the field of legislation.

Although we may see the end result of legislation passed and perhaps signed by the Governor, little note is taken of the months and months of preparation and negotiation that go into the creation of the final bill.

The reorganization bill, as well as others, could not have happened without such help. Pre-eminent in these negotiations were Robert Maurer, Executive Assistant to Senator Conklin,

and Nicholas Stevason, Counsel to the Senator.

Nothing could repay them for the endless hours of negotiation and aggravation that went into this process. But the Association felt it only fitting and proper that Bob Maurer and Nick Stevason should receive special plaques in recognition of their service.

The members of the Association look forward to working with these very able and dedicated people for many years to come.

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NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

Subscription to Our Children's Voice is through membership in a local chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. The publication is also available to the general public at \$1.50 per year.

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Legislative process in New York State

This column concludes the two part series on the Legislative Process in N.Y.S.

The Committees — The Legislature may act only on bills which the committees report out for action. . . . When the deliberative process is completed, an Assembly committee will vote on whether to report a bill to the Assembly floor for action. The committees have deadlines for reporting out their bills. After that time they turn over all bills on which they have not acted to the Rules Committee. Any bills not reported out or not turned over to the Rules Committee are considered "killed."

The work of the committees continues throughout the year. The committees conduct in-depth public hearings throughout the State and they are required to hold at least one hearing during the session on bills referred to them.

The number of Assembly committees was reduced in 1969 and they were realigned to reflect major areas of legislative interest and to equalize bill work load.

Public Action — Public participation is important at every step of the legislative process. Your letters to legislators affect decisions on bills.

It was noted earlier that ideas for legislation may come from individuals or groups representing the general public. Communicate your ideas to your Assemblyman or Senator and also your opinions on bills. Watch for notices of public hearings on legislation. Request an opportunity for you or your organization to present your positions.

When a bill of interest to you has been referred to committee, write to the chairman and members and let them know of your interest. When the bill moves from one house to another watch its progress and again let your views be known.

Finally, when a bill is before the Governor, your letter or telegram can influence his decision to sign or veto it.

Floor Action — A bill reported favorably by a committee appears on the calendar. Printed daily, the calendar lists by number, introducer and title all bills which are before the house for action. When the Speaker calls the Assembly into daily session, the Assembly Clerk reads the calendar, bill by bill. The first to be read are those newly reported and they are listed on "the order of second reading." These bills are then advanced to "the order of third reading." The bills which were previously advanced to "the order of third reading" are then considered. However, bills must be on a member's desk in final printed form for three days prior to final passage.

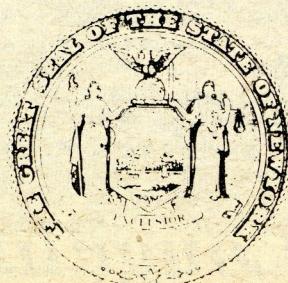
The Speaker presides over floor debates, recognizes members for arguments on a bill, and makes all rulings. Debate is generally concluded first by the Minority Leader and then by the Majority Leader. The Assembly uses either of two voting procedures: a short roll call or a long roll call. Under the short roll call, the Clerk calls in alphabetical order the names of the first legislator on the roster, the majority and minority leaders, and the last legislator on the roster. Any Assemblyman who wishes to vote against the bill does so simply by raising his hand and the Clerk records his vote.

On a long, or "slow" roll call, the Clerk calls the name of every Assemblyman, and each member announces his vote. After final passage in one house the bill goes to the other where it goes through a similar process. The same bill must pass both houses before it can be sent to the Governor for his consideration.

The Governor — The final act in the legislative process is the Governor's signature on a bill, which makes that bill a law. During the legislative session, the Governor has ten days, excluding Sundays, to approve or veto a bill. If he takes no action within that time, the bill automatically becomes a law.

All bills approved and sent to the Governor in the last ten days of the legislative session are "thirty-day bills," which means that the Governor has thirty calendar days after the Legislature adjourns in which to act on them. If the Governor takes no action within this time, the bill automatically dies. However, governors in recent times have not used this device, which is known as the pocket veto. Instead, they have approved or disapproved every bill.

If the Governor vetos a "ten-day" bill while the Legislature is still in session, that bill can become law if given a second approval by a vote of two thirds of the members of both houses. This is called "overriding a veto." Such action is rare.



Governor vetoes interest bill

In a complete reversal of his original stand, Governor Carey vetoed the Conklin-Kremer bill which would have made the interest on mortgages obtained for the construction of facilities for the mentally retarded a reimbursable item.

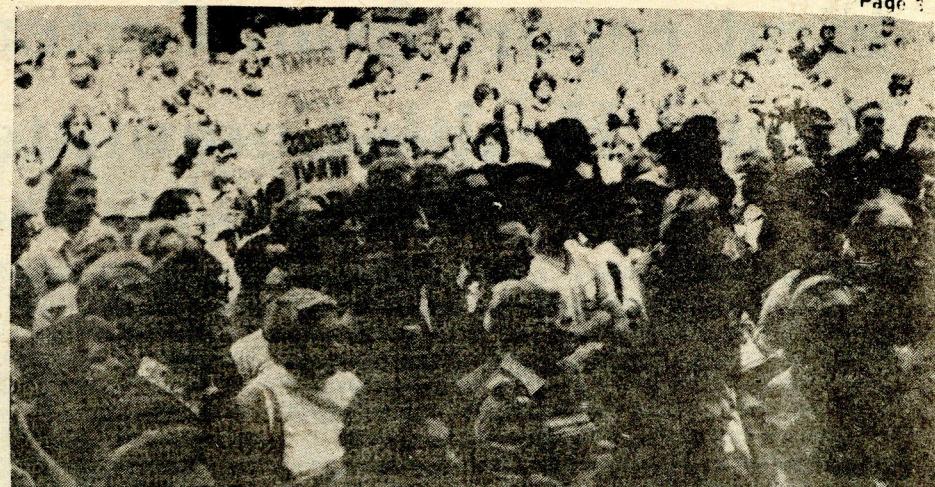
This was definitely a part of the package of conditions accepted by Commissioner Tom Coughlin and Assistant Secretary for Health Services to the Governor, Jim Introne, under which the State Association supported the amended version of the Governor's DMH Reorganization Plan.

Although this bill was supported by the Department of Mental Hygiene, objections to it were raised in the Division of the Budget.

The Governor's veto message mentions nothing of the agreement made. It presents no argument so overwhelming as to condone such an action. In a letter dated October 5, 1977, Dr. Kevin M. Cahill, Special Assistant to the Governor for Health Affairs, frankly admits there was such an agreement.

He writes, "First I would like to set the record straight with regard to the Conklin-Kremer bill. Jim Introne of the Governor's office did, as you say, conclude an agreement with you that this bill would be part of the legislative package and he reported this agreement to me."

Because, however, the State Association did not voice its total support of the Reorganization bill until later in the session, Dr. Cahill thinks this is reason enough to break an agreement. He writes, "However, as I recall, he also reported that your part of the agreement was your personal support of the Governor's Reorganization proposal. As I further recall, you withheld your support of the Governor's program until the very last days of the Legislative Session and con-



A part of the almost 4,000 NJARC members and allies who marched on the state capitol and gained more than \$7 million more than was proposed for the retarded citizens of New Jersey.

N. J. Parent March nets \$7 million

The New Jersey Association for Retarded Citizens organized their march on Trenton in only a few weeks time with the single purpose of getting a "Fair Share" of the New Jersey State budget for mental retardation service.

In spite of the fast mobilization, the New Jersey ARC gained a \$6.2 million increase in the budget in addition to a \$1 million "carry over" of funds . . . all of it for the direct benefit of retarded people. There were other substantial gains, not to be measured by the dollar sign, gains that stirred a new sense of what it means to

belong to the New Jersey Association for Retarded Citizens.

Nearly 4,000 persons, many of them retarded, gathered at the State House to make known to the Governor, legislators and the people of New Jersey that mentally retarded citizens of the State deserved and demanded a larger piece of the financial pie.

It was the first time in NJARC history that the Association's leadership, spurred by local members, chose the mass demonstration as a strategy of argument.

Once the demonstration was authorized, support for it was virtually spontaneous from every part of the State . . . from within the Association, and from the leadership and ranks of agencies, institutions, student groups and community organizations not specifically linked to the NJARC family.

Thousands of protesters, with chants and placards, walked along West State Street . . . a procession of protest that eventually congregated on the State House steps, the walkways and the street.

The mission of the march was stated forcefully in loud-speaker addresses by NJARC representatives, state officials sympathetic to the cause, some legislators, and others. Then, after an on-camera meeting, Governor Brendan Byrne told the marchers he would urge an added appropriation of \$7.2 million.

As it subsequently developed through Committee resolutions, the dollar result of the March on Trenton was the appropriation of an additional \$6.2 million to the Governor's budget, and an authorization to carry forward from previously unexpended monies (a practice not commonly allowed) an amount of \$1 million put together from sources within the Department of Human Services.

Never before . . . certainly not in anyone's memory . . . had there been such evidence of the Association's solidarity. Never before has NJARC provoked anything approaching the degree of public exposure given the March on Trenton by the mass news media.

And never before have so many members and friends on NJARC been so deeply and personally involved in a peaceful demonstration that combined the prerogatives and possibilities of citizenship.

How long to buy a building?

Some real estate transactions, which involve many groups and agencies, can take a long time to close.

John Milanese, Latham realtor who represented the Rensselaer County Chapter Association for Retarded Children, said it took 47 months and 23 days to buy a building from the day the group wanted to buy it.

The building is the former Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union headquarters, 484 River Street, Troy. Tony Lombardo, Troy realtor, represented the union. The transaction involved six banks, the State of New York, the Howard & Bush Foundation and other organizations or agencies.

First report from Carter's Mental Health Committee

M.R. notably absent

The President's Commission on Mental Health, in its preliminary report to the President dated September 1, drew two major conclusions: that mental health services must not be isolated from other important health, social and educational services and that there is an "enormous" need to deal constructively with the stigma and fears surrounding mental and emotional illness.

In a speech to the Washington Press Club last fall, First Lady Rosalyn Carter, honorary chairperson of the Commission, introduced the report emphasizing the need to change public attitudes. She said:

MRS. CARTER — A PERSONAL DRIVE

We have thousands and thousands of pages of data that add up to what I can only describe as a compelling mandate for change... I have been asked many times what I think can contribute by serving in an honorary capacity as chairperson of the Commission. I recognize that, in my unique position, I can influence public attitudes... I have pledged an all-out, personal drive to help create new national philosophy about mental health care — and to help bring mental illness out of the closet.

The Commission's preliminary report was a brief document which defined mental health, reviewed the problems and current solutions offered in mental health care, and made 14 recommendations to the President. In her speech, Mrs. Carter gave additional data not listed in the report to support her "personal drive" to lift the stigma surrounding mental illness.

STIGMA

She quoted three studies which showed that only 17 per cent of the people surveyed agreed that "mental patients were not dangerous"; that out of 21 groups of disabled persons, "the ex-convicts, the retarded, the alcoholics were least preferred... but the mentally ill were last"; and that, of the people asked about what kind of health information they were interested in, "71 per cent wanted to know

Tax credit for employers of handicapped

Under the provisions of a complex tax reform measure recently enacted by Congress, businessmen are given a new incentive to employ handicapped workers.

The Tax Reduction and Simplification Act (P.L. 95-30), signed into law by the President in May of 1977, contains a provision which offers employers a 50 per cent tax credit for hiring new handicapped workers referred by the state vocational rehabilitation agency. This 50 per cent tax credit consists of a 40 per cent general tax credit for any new employee, plus an additional 10 per cent credit if the new employee is physically or mentally handicapped and referred by the state rehabilitation agency.

No limitation is placed on the amount of credit which may be earned by an employer who hires disabled individuals. A credit ceiling of \$100,000 per employer is established for the hiring of non-handicapped workers.

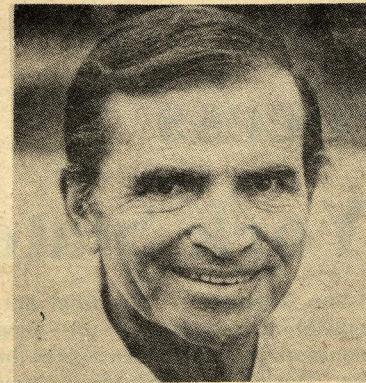
The tax incentive provision for the handicapped was added by the House Ways and Means Committee after being introduced by Congresswoman Martha Keys (D-Kansas). Senator Alan Cranston introduced a similar floor amendment when the tax reform bill (H.R. 3477) was being debated by the upper chamber.

more about mental illness and where they could find help for a family member."

Although the commission went into great detail regarding the problems of mental health, ranging from a definition and funding proposals to financing mechanisms and statistical findings, a careful reading of the report found only one specific reference to the mentally retarded. Although the report stated that 15 per cent of Americans need some kind of mental health care at any one time, 6,500,000 people were grouped into areas ranging from schizophrenic to receiving help for alcoholism and dependency on heroin. The figure was in contrast to 6,000,000 Americans identified as mentally retarded. Another 10,000,000 people had been found to have experienced alcohol related problems during their lifetime. Learning disabilities, autistic disorders, and child abuse statistics were also reported on.

The report seems to focus on a general catchall of mental health, without paying any attention to the difference between mental illness and mental retardation. It appears that this report, at least, perpetuates the idea that there is no difference between the two conditions.

It will be interesting to see further reports from this commission to see if this position continues, in spite of all evidence to the contrary.



Simon Sheib

Mini-Classic organizer

Simon Sheib, of Larchmont, spent more than 100 hours of volunteer time in organizing the Mamaroneck Mini-Classic Pro Am Golf Tournament for the benefit of the Westchester Association for Retarded Children and the Mamaroneck Youth Fund. This is his fourth year guiding the annual event.

In six years, the Mini-Classic has raised more than \$100,000 for the two causes involved. When Sheib appeared on the scene, WARC was brought under the beneficial coverage of the Mamaroneck Pro-Am. Because his son is retarded, he has been involved in the work of the local ARC chapter for many years. According to Sheib, he is happy that he was able to bring the tournament and such a worthy cause together.

Kolb retires; Coughlin and Prevost named

Dr. Lawrence C. Kolb, embattled commissioner of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, resigned saying the transition period in the months ahead, during which the department will be split into three separate agencies, "will be complex, arduous and anxiety-ridden."

Kolb expressed hope his leaving would change the thrust of the campaign and it would center "on what needs to be done." The commissioner cited "significant changes" in the delivery of services through the agency during his tenure and claimed credit for "moves taken to improve patient — client care, increasing security for society at large" and an improvement of the administration of the agency. He said more should be done to educate the general public in regard to mental disability by increasing the social and community acceptance of those previously institutionalized.

In a related move, Governor Hugh Carey announced his selections of Dr. James A. Prevost to head the Office for Mental Health and the selection of Thomas A. Coughlin III to head the Office for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Both of these offices will be formally established on April 1 of this year as a result of legislation passed during the last Legislative Session which reorganized the Department of Mental Hygiene into three separate offices.

In order to assure a smooth transition in the leadership of the existing Department of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Prevost will become Acting Commissioner of the Department, succeeding Dr. Lawrence Kolb whose retirement became effective in December.

Wilton voters go to Albany

As a followup to registering and voting in the last general elections, residents of Wilton Developmental Center visited the State Capitol in Albany to learn about their government at work.

The visit was part of an ongoing voter education program organized by Rosemary Brindisi Scholl, a psychiatric social worker at the center. In 1976, she assisted the residents in registering to vote, led discussion groups based on the presidential debates, and conducted classes in government.

While in Albany, the group toured the Capitol, learned the building's history and heard anecdotes and stories about the elected officials who have worked there.

Duryea's approach for change

In a recent letter, Perry B. Duryea, Minority Leader of the Assembly, announced his intention to introduce legislation to, in some measure, assist individuals whose physical and mental conditions tend to limit their access and set them apart from society. "Too often in the past, archaic, demeaning and insensitive labels have been used to refer to these persons. I have proposed, as a first step, that the State purge its laws and regulations of these terms so as not to perpetuate or encourage such misconceptions and stereotypes.

Assemblyman Duryea has identified over 90 statutory references, which he feels need revision, in more than 25 subject areas in New York State Law. These references are archaic, demeaning and insensitive characterizations of the physically disabled, mentally ill, and retarded. He seeks to change such labels as dumb, deaf and dumb, crippled, and feeble minded, all found in laws in the State of New York.

"In order to end this practice we ask those organizations involved in the interest of the emotionally, physically or mentally handicapped to assist us in this humane effort," Duryea said.

Examples of these stereotypes are "Cripple" appearing in education, election, general business, volunteer firemen's benefits and workmen's compensation.

"Dumb" in local finance, retirement and social security, social services.

"Feeble minded" in education, three times, and the social services law once.

"Idiot" in banking, three times; condemnation, three times; debtor and creditor, domestic relations, real property, real property actions and proceedings, real property tax.

"Idiocy" abandoned property, debtor and creditor, and general construction.

"Idiotic" education and social services.

"Insane" in any number of laws. In addition to that, there is the word "lunatic" that appears in the banking law, civil practice law and rules, condemnation, debtor and creditor, domestic relations, general construction, N.Y. civil court act, partnership, real property actions and proceedings, state and uniform civil court act, uniform district court act. And finally, "lunacy" in abandoned property, debtor and creditor, domestic relations, and general construction.

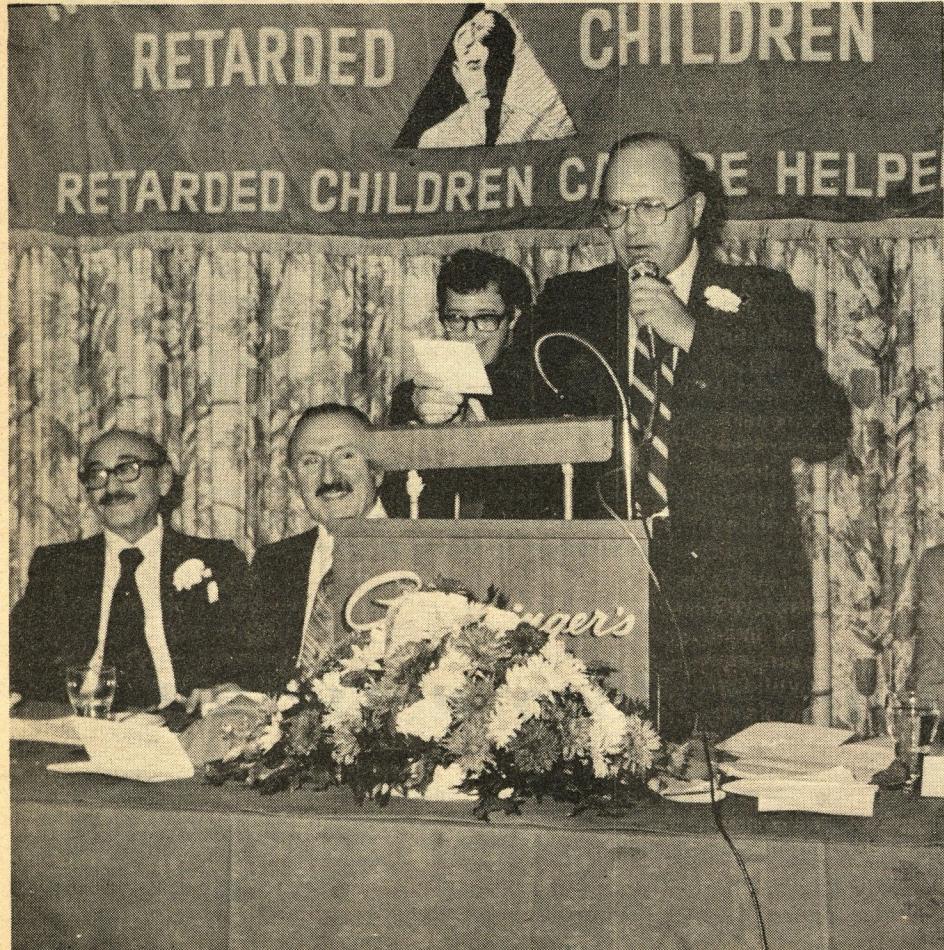
Who would believe it?

The Legislature was in session and the group was able to watch debate and action on the floor of both the State Senate and Assembly. At the time, the State's budget was being discussed giving the new voters a chance to see their representatives act on an important issue.

Among the representatives was Assemblyman Glenn H. Harris, in whose district several of the residents are voters. He made himself available to the group and his constituents were able to talk to him about community programs and other services for the developmentally disabled. The residents were also able to tour the Empire State Plaza and new State Museum and Cultural Center.

Seen and Heard....

AT THE STATE CONVENTION



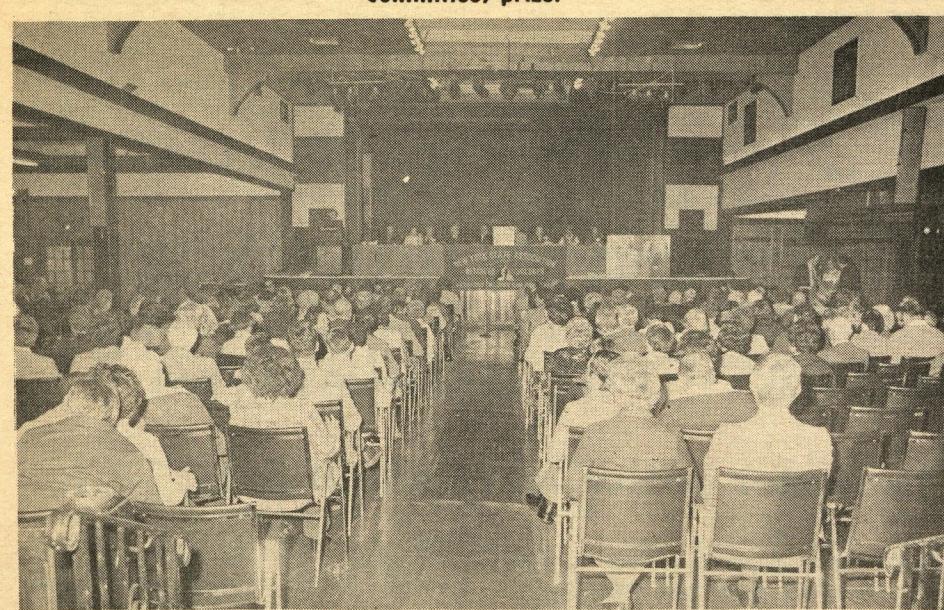
John Bertrand assisting Jonny Weingold in drawing "basket of cheer" (Education Committee) prize.



Commissioner Tom Coughlin holding back the banquet crowd.



Brandt and Bennett appreciating Weingold.



The Delegates — captive audience.



And, of course, Marc Brandt, Executive Director, Host Chapter, giving Weingold the works. (He really was good).



Past President, Supreme Court Justice, Robert H. Wagner, installing the Board and Officers.

Carey pledges compliance with Federal regulations

Governor Hugh L. Carey said that state will act expeditiously to comply with expanded federal requirements to eliminate discrimination against the handicapped, and he pledged state cooperation with the efforts of local governments.

The Governor said the regulations, unless otherwise noted, are effective immediately and noncompliance could jeopardize federal funding. He urged local officials to study the regulations and take the necessary steps to comply.

The federal regulations require:

— Accessibility to all programs, activities and buildings. Structural changes in existing buildings, if needed, must be completed by June 1980. No barriers are permitted in new construction.

— Identification and location of each qualified handicapped person not receiving a public education.

— Free appropriate public education by no later than September 1978 for all eligible handicapped persons.

— Elimination of discrimination against qualified handicapped in recruitment, hiring, compensation, job assignment, classification and fringe benefits.

— Availability of auxiliary aids such as interpreters and special materials for the blind.

A handicapped individual is defined as any person who (a) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities, (b) has a record of such an impairment or (c) is regarded as having such an impairment.

A handicap includes all types of physical and mental impairments, as alcohol and drug abuse, and specific learning disabilities that affect such activities as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

New York State laws against discrimination in housing, employment, rental, architectural barriers etc. antedated these federal regulations.



"HOW'D YOU LIKE THE SUPPER?" Like any good chef, Rosemary Pisanella wants to know if dinner was a success. Cooking dinner is just one of many chores shared by the eight residents of this hostel for mentally retarded adults in Poestenkill. Despite some neighborhood opposition, group residences for county adults living in state institutions or at home are on the increase.

NLRB rules against collective bargaining for workshops

In a recent decision involving Goodwill Industries of Southern California, the National Labor Relations Board held that the jurisdiction of a federal law affecting fair labor practices does not extend to clients in sheltered workshops for the handicapped.

The case arose in late 1976 when a local Teamsters Union attempted to organize handicapped drivers, helpers and mechanics in the transportation department of Goodwill Industries of Southern California. The basic issues raised in the case were: (1) whether sheltered workshop clients can be considered employees within the meaning of the National Labor Relations Act; (2) whether a collective bargaining unit including such clients is appropriate; and (3) whether NLRB should exercise jurisdiction over non-profit organizations, such as Goodwill Industries.

In responding to the latter issue, the Board noted it no longer distinguishes between profit-making and non-profit organizations for jurisdictional purposes. It also pointed out that the handicapped

clients in question could be considered employees, in the generic sense of the term, in that they work a set number of hours a day, perform functions which are of recognizable economic value and are paid for the performance of these functions.

On the critical issue of whether collecting bargaining rights should be extended to the Union, however, the Board decided it would not serve the purposes of the National Labor Relations Act to assert jurisdiction over handicapped workshop clients because of the unique relationship between the employer and the client. Among the factors which led the NLRB to this conclusion were: (1) all of the clients had an "employment disability" and most were referred through non-traditional channels; (2) clients are permitted to work at their own pace and every attempt is made to place clients in the most suitable job station; (3) services other than employment are provided and (4) the basic organizational mission of Goodwill Industries is rehabilitation of handicapped clients.

Hostels increase since 1970

A statistical report in the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene's Directory of Hostels for the Mentally Retarded shows a spectacular increase in the number of both residences and residents in the seven years since 1970.

The most dramatic increase came in the Northeast Region of the State. Residents increased from 1 in 1970 to 299 in 1977, an increase of 2718 per cent. Hostels increased from 1 in 1970 to 27 in 1977, a 2700 per cent increase.

The totals, including New York City, Long Island, Mid Hudson, Northeast, North Country, Central, Finger Lakes and Western, showed an increase in the number of hostels of 1814 per cent between 1970 and March, 1977, from 7 to 127. Covering the same time span, the number of residents increased from a total of 95 to a total of 1493, an increase of 1571 per cent.

So in spite of problems and opposition, the number of community residences is growing.

A home they never knew

Almost 300 residents of Rensselaer County were living in huge state institutions in 1970. Many came there as infants. Some were even born there.

Today many of these people have returned to programs in their own community. Some members of the community are not welcoming them with open arms.

Fifty people crowded into Troy City Hall for two Planning Commission and Zoning Board meetings recently. A petition with 143 signatures against a proposed hostel for retarded adults was presented. Residents spoke emotionally for and against it. The debate grew more and more heated.

But having dinner in their community residence in another part of the city, to a group of eight retarded people, the noise at City Hall seemed far away. They were having a cook-out. Many of the residents had never had a cook-out before living at the hostel. Many had never gone out to dinner.

Inside the modern, attractively furnished air-conditioned house, residents watched TV, did homework, set the table, or just relaxed after returning from a day of work or school. Kathy and Paul Teta, a married couple in their late twenties are the resident counselors. They have a separate apartment in the house. The Association for Retarded Children owns the hostel which opened in February.

If federal funds come through, projections for this year show four more residences, projections for 1979 and 1980 both show one. Bringing most of the hundred county residents back from state institutions is the goal.

And so as the noise and clamor continues, community residences are springing up and people who lived in institutions for many years of their lives now can have a chance to live the normal lives most of us take for granted.

Rochester police learn about m.r.

Some time ago when a question was raised by the Executive Director of the Monroe County Association for Retarded Children regarding the treatment of the mentally retarded by the Rochester Police Department, the Commissioner of Police in Rochester stated that mental retardation is a subject brought up in the training of Rochester Police.

He said no period of police training goes on in the Rochester Police Department without some time being devoted to mental

retardation. At one time, three hours were spent by a class listening to a doctor speak about the subject. During in-service training, which occurs often, the subject is again reviewed. It is also discussed at roll call sessions and has been the subject of print in the department's Weekly Training Bulletin.

It would be interesting to discover how much information about the mentally retarded is given to other police forces throughout the state of New York.

Weingold appointed to AAMD committee

Dr. Margaret Giannini, president of the American Association on Mental Deficiency and the Director of the Mental Retardation Institute, one of the first university affiliated mental retardation centers in the country, recently appointed Jerry Weingold to the AAMD Legislative and Social Issues Committee.

He is now engaged in helping the Committee propose, to the American Association on Mental Deficiency, a policy statement on:

Zoning that prevents the utilization of any building for community residence for the mentally retarded; and

On classification of the mentally retarded as a "youthful offenders" in view of the uncertainties of the law concerning diminished capacity.

Weingold stated he felt this committee is one of the most important in the country and bears promise for great social changes.

In the courts

FLORIDA V. BRADSHAW
No. 77-143 (2nd D., Fla.)

Mr. Bradshaw is a mentally retarded individual who is charged with receiving and concealing stolen vehicle inspection certificates. During this trial, he requested an expert psychologist be appointed to examine him and report to the court whether he was mentally retarded. And, if so, whether the extent of the retardation was such that he would not be capable of intent required to commit the alleged offense.

The trial court, however, refused to permit an examination on the basis that diminished mental capacity, short of insanity, could not be considered.

The constitutional arguments raised by National Center for Law and the Handicapped, which filed a brief, included rights of due process clause of the 14th Amendment, the right to trial by jury under the 6th Amendment, and the right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th Amendment.

NCLH asserted that, as a result of the trial court's action, Mr. Bradshaw could be convicted for a specific intent crime, though, due to his retardation, he lacked the ability to form such specific intent.

Social science arguments are involved here. They attack the M'Naughten Insanity Test, which excuses an individual only if he does not know right from wrong. The argument is that the M'Naughten Test, applicable to insanity, is irrelevant in the condition of mental retardation.

Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens v. State Board of Education, No. H77122 (D. Conn.)

The Connecticut Association and the class represented by them, seven severely retarded children, bases its cause of action on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as equal protection and due process grounds. A section of the Connecticut law operates to deny certain groups to free public education by removing them from the class of mentally retarded individuals who are entitled to special education. The exclusion covers those mentally retarded children requiring custodial care, or who are without clean bodily habits, responsiveness to directions or means of intelligible communication.

They contend that the creation of this class, not entitled to education, is a denial of their right to equal protection of the law.

Finally, the plaintiffs claim that Section 504 should operate in this case to bar further discrimination by Connecticut public school officials against handicapped children solely on the basis of their handicaps.

**Sparkman v. McFarlin, No. 522
F. 2d 172 (7th Cir., 1977)**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled, on March 23, 1977, that an Indiana judge had no authority to approve the sterilization of a 15 year old girl and is therefore vulnerable to a civil rights suit for damages resulting from his action.

In the petition for sterilization, the mother claimed that her daughter was "somewhat retarded" although she performed adequately in school; furthermore, she could not control her daughter's relationships with older men.

The judge approved the petition with no appointment of a guardian ad litem to represent the daughter's interest and no hearing. Only after four years, and after marriage, did the daughter finally learn she had been sterilized.

The circuit court held the judge's ruling had no basis in statutory or common law. Under existing Indiana law in 1971 (since repealed), specific procedures were required in the sterilization of institutionalized person, including the right to notice and hearing. The statute's jurisdiction did not include consideration of sterilization cases not involving institutionalized persons.

This case leaves the whole question of sterilization up in the air because the lower court judge failed to comply with elementary principles of procedural due process. Much still remains to be done in this area.

There are just a few of the cases indicating the ferment going on in the law today with regard to mental retardation and its social consequences.

The cart pulls the horse

Reprinted from the Democrat and Chronicle — Rochester, New York. Written by Ronald L. Hallinen, certified psychiatric social worker and president of the Livingston Wyoming Chapter of the State Association for Retarded Children.

If ever a service deserved to be called a non-service, the State Department of Mental Hygiene these days comes closest. What years ago was conceived as an answer to the needs of the handicapped and their families has since grown into a many-headed, unwieldy monster. It is many times barely capable of providing survival care for those it has been charged to serve.

This is not intended as an indictment of state employees. A short time working for Mental Hygiene is to show that these people are generally no better or no worse than any large group of employees. There are the dedicated martyrs and there are the scofflaws. And yet, in a way, these persons are remarkable because they often provide service in spite of the system.

Where sits Mental Hygiene these days in relation to those it serves? As best as one can tell, it sits on the wagon seat waiting for the cart to pull the horse. And it hasn't yet learned to profit from the advice of its experienced drivers.

Mental Hygiene has proposed the most altruistic philosophy ever to come from its Albany halls. This is the concept of normalizing and humanizing the environment of the handicapped and the lifestyle of which they are part. No one really can, or should, argue against that philosophy.

Yet Mental Hygiene is now implementing that philosophy in a way that is often inconsiderate of, and at times potentially dangerous to, the persons it purports to serve. It is placing unprepared handicapped individuals into unprepared, service-impooverished, overburdened communities. As much as we would like to say this is not so, the facts are otherwise. The greatest cause for this action is the need to reduce the population at the traditional, inpatient facilities.

Why has Mental Hygiene set unrealistic population reduction goals? The answer is emphatically one of dollars and the blame must be shared equally by Mental Hygiene the Federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In an effort to improve the lives of the handicapped, especially those residing in institutions, H.E.W. has set standards which have to be met within the short period of time. The penalty for not meeting those standards is the loss of federal Medicaid money.

The second dollar consideration is the state budget itself. Currently the Mental Hygiene budget hovers around the billion dollar mark. The total cost of maintaining one individual for one year in an institution ranges from \$15,000 up depending on program, location, disability, etc. If the budget is to be reduced the population must drop, buildings must go. Moving clients out of institutions and into community residences reduces the dollar amount that Mental Hygiene pays directly for care.

Lest someone deny that money is the largest consideration in moving people to less restrictive settings, and that Mental Hygiene historically has not been what one would call altruistic in its behavior toward its clients, we only need to cite that it took a court order, the Willowbrook consent decree, to move Mental Hygiene toward humanizing services. And that decree itself has been a source of consternation because, first of all, it channeled newly-appropriated resources away from Upstate facilities and services and into the Willowbrook area. Secondly, its mandates were never extended to include the upstate facility areas. This lack of altruism by Mental Hygiene is also evident to the handicapped who have never been in institutions, and to their families for whom sufficient service funds have never been provided.

Now let's look at that cart trying to pull that horse. Mental Hygiene says that all facilities must meet the dictums of the consent decree and H.E.W. by reducing to a more human and normal service size. All who are able should live in the community.

"Bravo!" say we all who are professionals in the field. But, if the cart is the movement of people out, the reduction in size and the improvement of services, then the horse must be the money, equipment, staff ratios, programs and time necessary to prepare the clients and the communities for the transition.

Mental Hygiene is asking the cart to come first. If people are moved out, so it is argued, then staff ratios will improve and there will be enough equipment, etc. for those who remain. Move people out and you improve services for all.

Yet who, really, is better served, in or out, if clients are not prepared to cope with a very complex society, if services are not there or are inadequate because the state won't fully fund them, or if communities of people are not educated as to the abilities of the handicapped and willing to accept them as neighbors in full citizenship?

No, the cart cannot pull the horse. We also cannot undo 100 years of history with the unrealistic, punitive five-year plan. It's time to rethink the decisions that caused this plan.

Former resident joins SDC chapter



DANIEL BRENNER

Daniel Brennan, a former client at the Syracuse Developmental Center, 800 So. Wilbur Ave., Syracuse, New York, has joined the SDC Chapter of the ARC according to president Edna Gillette.

Daniel has been a client at S.D.C. from 1969 until recently. Previously, he resided at the Newark Developmental Center.

He is an avid bowler and bowls with the ARC group. He is presently residing with his mother, Mrs. Julia Brennan Gailbraith, in Fayetteville, New York.

"It is a real pleasure to welcome Daniel to our Chapter," said Mrs. Gillette. "He is the first client to join us. I hope there will be more."

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Mentally handicapped eligible for H.S. diploma

As the result of action by the Penn Yan School Board recently, mentally handicapped students in the Penn Yan Central District are eligible to receive a regular high school diploma. Previously, these students have received a special EMR (Educationally Mentally Retarded) diploma.

Vaughn Baker, a BOCES employee who specializes in special education to the mentally handicapped, explained that a recent change in state regulation requires all graduates of high schools within the state to pass the basic high school competency examination prior to receiving a diploma.

Baker pointed out that not all EMR students in the district will take the exam for high school graduates, rather only those students whom the teacher feels are qualified.

Baker reported, in passing the competency exam, reading and math present the most difficulty to the EMR student. He noted, as children in the Penn Yan system advance educationally, they are moved from the special classroom into regular courses of study.

"In some cases it takes them longer periods of time, but they can receive a

regular high school diploma," Baker said. He noted when science, social studies and writing are added to the competency exam as required diploma subjects, it will become more difficult for the mentally deficient pupil.

Those students who do not pass the exam and are felt capable by the teacher, are given a second opportunity, Baker said. On an average, 90 per cent of those that retake the exam, pass it, he said. Baker said the diploma, combined with skills being taught the mentally handicapped youngster of today, will help to make him or her a more employable adult.

ARC comments on National Health Insurance

The United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, preparatory to making its recommendations to the Congress for National Health Insurance Legislation, conducted a national survey program to solicit a broad range of commentary and suggestions.

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, made a statement on behalf of the organization in response to a request for comments from HEW.

These seven points were made and sent to the department:

1. National Health Insurance should be mandatory and cover all residents of the U.S.

2. Certainly coverage for catastrophic illness should be provided to all persons. It is important to define catastrophic illness, especially in terms of the mentally retarded whose condition is generally irreversible.

3. Since the prevention of illness, including mental illness and mental retardation, is going to be an important element in controlling the costs of National Health Insurance, it is important this insurance be mandated initially for pregnant women and young children,

irrespective of financial status, who would receive the full range of benefits without contribution.

4. Insurance companies should not be involved in the plan. Payment should be made directly by the government to the providers and such payments shall cover full cost, ascertained by studies, including consumers, without contribution.

5. The mentally retarded and other developmentally disabled, as well as the handicapped incapable of self sustaining employment, shall be considered dependents of the parents without regard to age.

6. Services to this group shall include all diagnostic and ameliorative measures, even if they involve residential care and treatment, including but not limited to dental care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, educational therapy, and allied services.

7. Finally, talk of gradualism in plans that include the private sector, or permit physicians to charge over and above the fees fixed would be extremely counter-productive, obscure the intent of National Health Insurance, and encourage a system that would add cost on cost.

State has difficulty relocating m.r. residents

New York State's Mental Hygiene Department reported "great difficulty" in finding small community places for retarded patients in its efforts to close one Manhattan residence, and said discussions were under way to phase out another.

Of the 104 cases of severely retarded residents with physical handicaps who had been proposed for transfer from the Manhattan Developmental Center, a spokesman in Albany said that only 20 had been accepted so far.

The unit, which is on Wards Island, was opened in April 1974 for patients formerly living at the Willowbrook Developmental Center on Staten Island. The department's plans had originally called for closing it next month.

The main problem, the department said, was the severity of the patients' handicaps, which require expensive care that agencies said they were unequipped to handle.

The department, the spokesman said, is also seeking to close the Manhattan center's Gouverneur Unit in an old building that used to be Gouverneur Municipal Hospital.

The unit has 168 severely retarded residents. The spokesman said discussions had been under way with Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospital on an arrangement to relocate them.

The Manhattan center's third residence is the Sheridan Unit in Greenwich Village, which has 108 residents and a capacity for 273. The spokesman said the center was being upgraded with \$825,000 to be spent over the next year, starting with \$109,000 in fire-safety improvements. The balance, he said, would be used to comply with standards set in Federal District Court in Brooklyn in a Willowbrook suit.

The Manhattan center moves became known after State Comptroller Arthur Levitt made public a 63 page report of an

audit of the facility. Mr. Levitt said his auditors had found that "many elements of client care — such as treatment plans, client evaluations, staff productivity, client accommodations and specialized programming — required overall upgrading or revision to comply with the Willowbrook court order and the department's own standards.

However, he added the department had thereafter cited progress by the facility in moving to meet the standards and his auditor's recommendations.

A priest writes about respect for retarded N.Y.S. Civil Service recruiting effort

This letter appeared in an Ogdensburg newspaper recently. It is an eloquent plea for respect for the mentally retarded.

I am writing this letter to express my extreme displeasure about Merrill Blancher's comments about the establishment of a hostel in the Town of Rodman and people inflicted with Mental Retardation. Mr. Blancher stated, on television, that the ARC (Association for Retarded Children) should have had hearings for the establishment of the hostel and that the clients being placed into the hostel had "sexual problems."

I firmly agree with the ARC spokesman, Dick Oliver, that if any hearing was required, then the reality of discrimination would be present. Secondly, I would like to know where Mr. Blancher received his information about the "sexual problems" of the clients who would be placed into the hostel. Does he know for certain that they do have problems in this area of personal development? To be very frank, I become quite disturbed when people treat the mentally retarded as outcasts and "second-class" citizens. They have human rights and personal dignity just like any human being.

I can understand the hesitation on the part of Mr. Blancher and the local residents. However, those feelings of doubt and hesitancy can be eliminated if they would visit one of the ARC centers and talk with the professional staff about their feelings. This is just one more example of the tremendous need for more community education on the topic of community responsibilities to the mentally retarded. Communities must learn to accept the mentally retarded because they too have a very important role to play. If this will not be done, then the role of justice will not be properly met.

Prejudice is not an innate human quality; it is learned. Such learning is very detrimental to the growth of a progressive community. Prejudice destroys personal freedom and infects the human mind. It can also crush the high ideals this nation stands for. We are Americans who have built this nation by working together and protecting the rights and dignity of the human being. Once we lose this perspective, then we will have lost much.

Rev. Michael J. Maloney
Notre Dame Church

Office of Human Development Reorganized

According to HEW Secretary Califano, the new name for the Office of Human Development is Office of Human Development Services. In announcing the new name, the Secretary also announced a reorganization of the office. The plan reduces from 24 to 9 the number of programs and staff units reporting directly to the Assistant Secretary of Human Development, presided over by Arabella Martinez. Five program administrators and four staff offices have been established.

The reorganization is interpreted as a reflection of general feeling in HEW and elsewhere that a new administrative approach to programs for the handicapped is desirable. The President, in speaking to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, stated his intention to establish an agency for the handicapped. The reorganization announced by Secretary Califano is not, however, the established plan of the agency the President has in mind. Staff in the White House are now studying possible arrangements for the whole human ser-

vices field. Decisions at this point will undoubtedly be reflected in the permanent organization of an agency for handicapped individuals.

In general, organizations of and for handicapped individuals are not enthusiastic about the plan. They feel it was developed without consultation with many individuals and organizations that would be affected by the plan. They believe it does not reflect mature judgment with respect to the most substantial problems in the coordination of services for handicapped individuals. They feel it is premature, the step having been taken while a reorganization plan for human services is being considered at the White House. Some groups object to having the same individual serve as Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration and Director of the Administration, which includes vocational rehabilitation. Some interpret this to mean there will be one additional administrative layer between the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Secretary's Office.

The New York State Department of Civil Service announces a special recruitment effort to select and appoint 200 physically or mentally disabled individuals to designated positions, according to the special terms of Section 55.b of the New York State Civil Service Law. The positions will be located across the state but the majority are likely to be in the Capital District and in greater New York City.

This effort is a direct result of an amendment to the Civil Service Law signed by Governor Carey, which provides a measure of relief and assistance to handicapped citizens who are seeking employment with the state. This is the amendment:

"Employment of handicapped persons by the State: The State Civil Service Commission may determine up to two hundred positions with duties such as can be performed by physically or mentally handicapped persons who are found otherwise qualified to perform satisfactorily the duties of any such position. Upon such determination, the said positions shall be classified in the non-competitive class and may be filled only by persons who shall have been certified by the Employee Health Service of the Department of Civil Service as being either physically or mentally handicapped, but capable of performing the duties of such positions. The number of persons appointed pursuant to this section shall not exceed two hundred."

The amendment is intended for those persons who, because of a specific physical or mental handicap, are disadvantaged in the job market. It is a reaching out to assist those who are very much in need of assistance in obtaining and retaining gainful employment.

The New York State Association for Retarded Children is one of the agencies asked to take the initiative in identifying, and possibly restructuring, jobs for those persons and also actively recruiting applicants in this area.

As positions to be filled are identified, referrals will be made from the applicant file on hand. Individuals will also be referred from an existing applicant pool of the Department of Labor's Office of Selective Placement Services.

After the 200 positions are filled, the applications of those not hired will be interfiled with all others for referral during routine placement efforts. As positions are filled, the New York State Department of Civil Service anticipates hiring individuals who will cover the entire spectrum of disabilities and handicaps. Agencies helping with selection will probably be asked to help with post employment training and counseling, if necessary.



SUCCESS!

Graduates face kindergarten



Lisa Seymour adjusts her hat after receiving her diploma, while David Jacobsen gets ready to graduate.

11 Chapters top goals Membership up 1,000

Led by eleven Chapters who have already surpassed their 1977-78 membership goals, the Association's membership had grown to an all time high of 31,566 as of Thanksgiving Day, 1977. This represents 930 memberships more than the 1976-77 total, through February, 1977. With three months to go, it appears inconceivable that we would fail to reach the increase of 1,000.

An overall increase of over 1,250 memberships by the top Chapters, provided the basis for the increase. The ten leaders and their Chairpersons were:

Honorable mention should go to several

Chapters, which came within 10 members of their goal. These include the following Chapters, Chairpersons and memberships vs. goals: Cortland County, Sarah Quirk, 129 against a goal of 135; Orleans County, Marti Smith, 51 of 60 (but doubled membership); St. Lawrence, Carolyn Smith, 122 of 125; and Syracuse Developmental Center, Lulu Sloane, 83 of 90.

A special honorable mention to Nassau County and Chairperson, Dorothy Ganin, who missed their immense goal of 7,700 members by only 8, at a total of 7,692.

The thanks of the Association all those Chapters who contributed to the 1977 membership effort.

Chapter	Membership	Chairperson	Goal
New York City	7,016	Anne Kraus	6,700
Niagara	358	Vivian Loughery	200
Sullivan	1,008	Irene Lebed	890
Allegany	143	Gladys Ackerman	90
Dutchess	201	Nan Ritchie	150
Clinton	282	Lynn Scheiber	250
Willowbrook	731	—	700
West Seneca	516	Judy O'Rourke	500
Essex	201	Jennifer Halasz	190
Welfare League	1,514	Charlotte Roth	1,510
Herkimer	178	Judith Sprague	175

GAO REPORT

Preventing MR— More can be done

Last fall, the General Accounting Office published a report entitled: "Preventing Mental Retardation — More Can Be Done," reviewing HEW progress toward a national goal established in 1971 by President Nixon. Nixon's goal, later reiterated by President Ford, was to reduce the incidence of mental retardation by half, by the end of the century.

To do more in preventing MR, GAO recommended that HEW designate a focal point in the department to implement a national prevention strategy, monitor and coordinate the efforts of the various HEW agencies and offices, and develop a method of determining the progress being made in reaching the goal.

The report cited these statistics related to the incidence of MR in the U.S.:

Population — over 6 million persons are mentally retarded; over 100,000 new cases of retardation occur each year; as many as 4 million of the 80 million children expected to be born at present birth rates by

the year 2000 will be, or will become, mentally retarded;

Costs — the estimated national cost of MR was between \$8.5 and \$9 billion annually (in 1974) — including care, treatment and the economic losses attributable to the decreased productivity of the retarded; HEW alone spent \$1.7 billion in 1976 for the MR; if the number of persons who are severely or profoundly retarded — about 5 per cent of the total — could be reduced by half by the year 2000, the annual savings would be \$2.7 billion.

Programs — Title V (of the Social Security Act) maternal and child health and crippled children's program support 166 MR clinics, 20 biochemical and cytogenetic laboratories, and training programs at 21 university affiliated facilities.

In general, the report said, HEW and the President's Committee on Mental Retardation agreed with GAO's findings and recommendations.

New legal services corporation formed

Jack Bernstein, former director of System of Advocacy for the Retarded, anticipating the end of SOAR's funding source on May 28, 1977, negotiated new funding for a not-for-profit legal services and social advocacy corporation named Protection and Advocacy System for Developmental Disabilities, Inc. This new corporation is operating independently of any other agency or corporation, but is, in effect, the successor to SOAR (System of Advocacy for the Retarded). Mr. Bernstein functions as its Executive Director and General Counsel.

The Protection and Advocacy System will be governed by an eleven member board of governors; eight representing the four disabilities (mental retardation, epilepsy, cerebral palsy and autism) and three independent experts in the fields of law, community organization and advocacy. Two board members are developmentally disabled.

The primary purpose of this organization is to provide, free of charge, legal services, social advocacy, training in

advocacy skills and media education on behalf of the developmentally disabled in New York State. It is projected, contingent on additional funding, that an advocate will be available locally to anyone with a problem when all four regional offices are established in the key areas of the state. The first of these regional offices is now operating in New Paltz. If you are in that area and need assistance, write or call Protection and Advocacy System for Developmental Disabilities, Inc., 104 Deyo Hall, State University College, New Paltz, New York 12561 (914) 255-8662.

Those in other areas of the state should, at present, write or call the Protection and Advocacy System for Developmental Disabilities, Inc., at 175 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1308, New York, New York 10010 (212) 982-1140. We will accept collect calls on our Hotline (212) 982-1141.

If you wish additional information or want to volunteer as an advocate, please fill out the form below, detach and return it to us as soon as possible.

TO: PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEM
FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, INC.:
175 Fifth Ave.
Suite 1308
New York, N.Y. 10010

(Please Print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Would like to be an advocate _____

Wish additional information _____

Place me on your mailing list _____

CHAPTER NEWS

What our

ESSEX COUNTY CHAPTER leads off this issue of Chapter News, and a very busy Chapter they are. Recently opened a greenhouse funded by the Essex County Manpower Office. The greenhouse is located at their Maple Knoll hostel in Port Henry, New York. Very much enjoyed visiting all of their facilities during a recent North country trip. We're almost willing to bet they are the only Chapter with a hostel that has a moose head over the fireplace. . . **WELFARE LEAGUE - LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER** will have held their 38th Annual Luncheon by the time this issue reaches you. We know it will be, as always, a very successful affair. **WELFARE LEAGUE**, also one of those Chapters that have recently changed the format of their newsletter. It certainly is a much more colorful sheet. . . **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER**'s newsletter speaks very interestingly of how literacy volunteers are working together with men and women in ARC programs to help our young people better handle their every day activities. Justifiably proud of the fact they are working on their sixth community residence. . . Speaking of community residences, **JEFFERSON COUNTY ARC** has all seven of their Watertown hostels hooked into the City's emergency firecall system. . . **STEUBEN COUNTY CHAPTER** working hard with Department of Mental Hygiene to combine their two existing workshops into one new facility. They hope the new facility, located at Bath, will enable them to double their number of clients and reduce staff travel time between the two existing facilities by about 50 per cent. . . **ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY CHAPTER** has obtained building permits to construct two pre-fabricated homes in the City of Ogdensburg. The homes, which will be located next to one another, will each house four or five persons. One home will be a one-story, the other a split-level. Perhaps the best news in the whole hostel field comes out of **ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**, where Director of Community Residences, Michael Gili, reported that the residents of the City of Potsdam, who had initially opposed a hostel in their area, have now come to the point of saying "I don't know why we got so excited". . .



The workshop of the Otsego County Association of Retarded Children recently acquired a ramp which makes it accessible to clients in wheel chairs. Material for the ramp was donated by Geoff Davis who bought a house equipped with the ramp. It was installed by the Homer Folks maintenance crew. It makes it much easier for Bill Curtis of the Upstate Hostel and other workers in wheel chairs. Gil Terry, a workshop supervisor, pushes the chair.



At the eleventh hour on Veteran's Day, a solemn moment was marked by a flag presentation ceremony. The Ogdensburg Workshop in St. Lawrence County became the background for an exchange of flags from Congressman Robert C. McEwen and Assemblyman David Martin to trainees in the Facility. The Federal flag was brought to the workshop by Congressman McEwen for the Veterans day presentation and the Capitol flag displaying the standard Excelsior was presented by Assemblyman Martin. These flags will be flown during the coming years at the 3 workshops in St. Lawrence County to commemorate the service and historic significance of all Veterans in American history. (Left to right) Assemblyman Dave Martin; Charlene Althiser; Kat Klein, President; Congressman Robert McEwen; Gary Cardinal; Richard Laurin.

COMMUNITY LEAGUE - WASSAIC CHAPTER writes to say "What better way to continue celebrating a Silver Jubilee than to kick off traces, get off the beaten track, and frolic in new pastures?" So **COMMUNITY LEAGUE** set up a Champagne Brunch on a Sunday at Wednesday's. It really was not as confusing as it sounds, Sunday being a day in September and Wednesdays being a fun discotheque on Manhattan's East Side. The wine lifted the spirits, the music lifted the roof, and about 200 of us found we were having a dandy time. A fringe benefit, not to be overlooked, was that the adventure was financially successful. It was an encouraging departure from traditional Luncheons and the **LEAGUE** plans more happy times in 77-78.

The **LEAGUE** held its September membership meeting at Wassaic D.C. where, despite the relentless rain, there was a gratifying attendance. Dr. Richard Merges' usual warm greeting was spiced with the good news that the long drawn out reconstruction of living facilities in some of the buildings at the Center had finally been brought up to planned schedule. By Spring, the Wassaicans temporarily housed at Wingdale will be coming back to living quarters at the Center approximating a family style residence. . . Bad news from **DUTCHESSE COUNTY**, where a group home was turned down by the Fishkill Zoning Board. Oh well, maybe one day they'll understand. . .

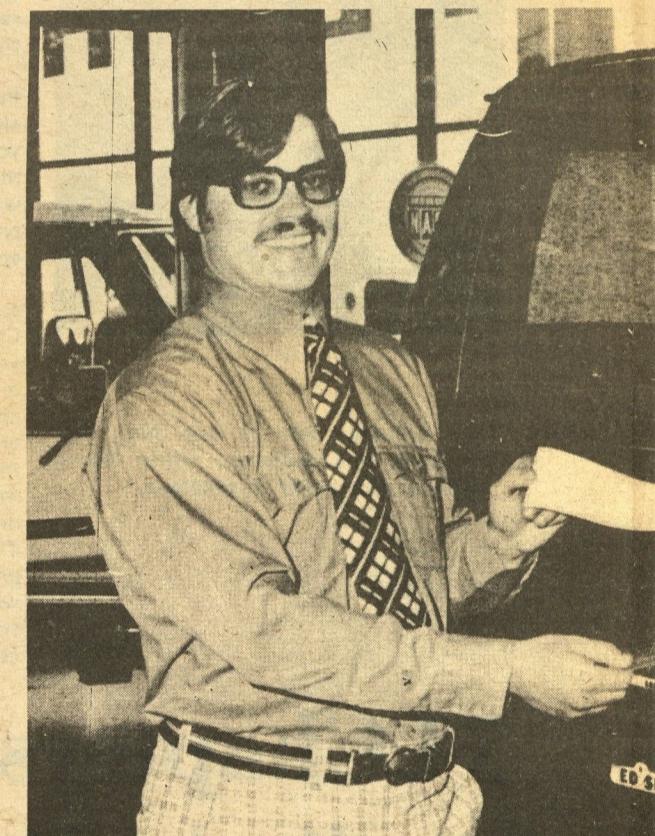
WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER'S newsletter speaking hopefully about the take over of certain buildings at Willowbrook by the United Cerebral Palsy Organization. We hope this will prove to be a successful venture. Also, save the date, **WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER** already planning their 1978 Luncheon for May 13th. . . **ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER** detailing some of their fund raising woes in their newsletter, were looking for a good turn out at their October Dinner Dance and, like many of our groups, have taken to Bingo as a fund raiser. Certainly hope this is coming through for them. Thanks to the **ROCKLAND COUNTY Knights of Columbus** for their donation of \$1,400 to the Chapter, raised at the 1977 Charity Ball. . .

How about that **ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER**? Not satisfied with the excellent work they have done in recent months getting things cooking again at Ellenville, in addition to their Kingston location, they now have opened another satellite workshop in Saugerties, New York. . . **ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER** not only coming out with a new look to the newsletter but joining many Chapters of the Association who have gone into the greenhouse business. Had a Fall Dinner Dance for all their clients at the Kiln Restaurant in Waterloo, New York in October. . . It is always difficult to discuss **NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER** in this column, because there is always so much going on, one really doesn't know where to begin. Let us just mention their highlight from their newsletter which marked the recognition of their Annual Rose Ball, raising approximately \$200,000 for the Chapter in this, its 24th year.

It speaks of their Annual Bargain Book Fair, Long Island's largest book sale, which annually raises over \$20,000 for the Chapter. It shows a thank you party for over 600 teenagers who participated in the Annual Teen Drive, and how, in return for their efforts, the Chapter was able to provide 11 \$500 scholarships. It speaks of 180 retarded adults in the Chapter's Leisure Time Program taking a trip to Mystic, Connecticut. Need I say more? . . . **MADISON COUNTY CHAPTER** writes in its newsletter about a number of activities, including their outreach for additional children for their pre-school program, their many fund raising events, and a most interesting article from a former client speaking on the needs for those still in his Chapter's workshop. . . **COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER** featured their YOUTH organization in a recent issue of their newsletter. Young people are sponsoring two activities per month for adults, sponsored special fund workshops and participated in a Hand-in-Hand Day. . .

NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER celebrating, as in days of old, in their newsletter about the fine job done in membership this year. With a membership goal of 200 in 1977-78, the Chapter almost doubled that total with a mem-

bership of 357. Chapter presented its 2nd Annual Humanitarian Award to Senator William T. Conklin at their Annual Dinner. The big news in **NIAGARA**, of course, is their move to a new building, which we hope will help them provide many of the services they have always wanted to be able to offer. . . **PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER** had a very interesting article in their newsletter about their Graduation Program for youngsters leaving their pre-school program, doing it up with mortar boards and the whole bit. Had their Annual Walk for the Chapter called WALK WE MUST on October 16th. . . **CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER** very busy in their workshop and hoping soon to be able to get into a new larger space. Their present building not only a little small for their activities, but during periods of hard rain, a little too damp. . . **ONEIDA COUNTY CHAPTER** sends the following interesting release: "The IBEX Wagon, a special bus with a wheelchair lift, is now in operation through the **ONEIDA COUNTY** Association for Retarded Children.



Karl Klein, left, executive director of the Saratoga Retarded Children (ARC), receives the keys to a new car manager of Ed Shepard Dodge. The Developmental Disabilities Assistance Grant will comprise the transportation services needed for individuals to attend the ARC programs.

Purchased through a community fund drive sponsored by radio station WIBX and ARC, the IBEX Wagon is used for transportation of handicapped and home-bound people, particularly those in wheelchairs. It operates from 9:30 to 12:00 noon and from 1:30 to 2:30 each weekday.

Any eligible people may use the service by calling IBEX Wagon at 735-2251."

Operational expenses are supported through donations. . . **SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER**, to help alleviate over-crowded conditions and to expand its programs, has recently purchased three new buildings.

The Mohawk House, in Scotia, New York, is the Association's third Community Residence and is presently the home for six adults. The Niskayuna House, on Eastern Avenue, in the Town of Niskayuna, is the new home for nine adults who were previously housed at the O.D. Heck Developmental Center.

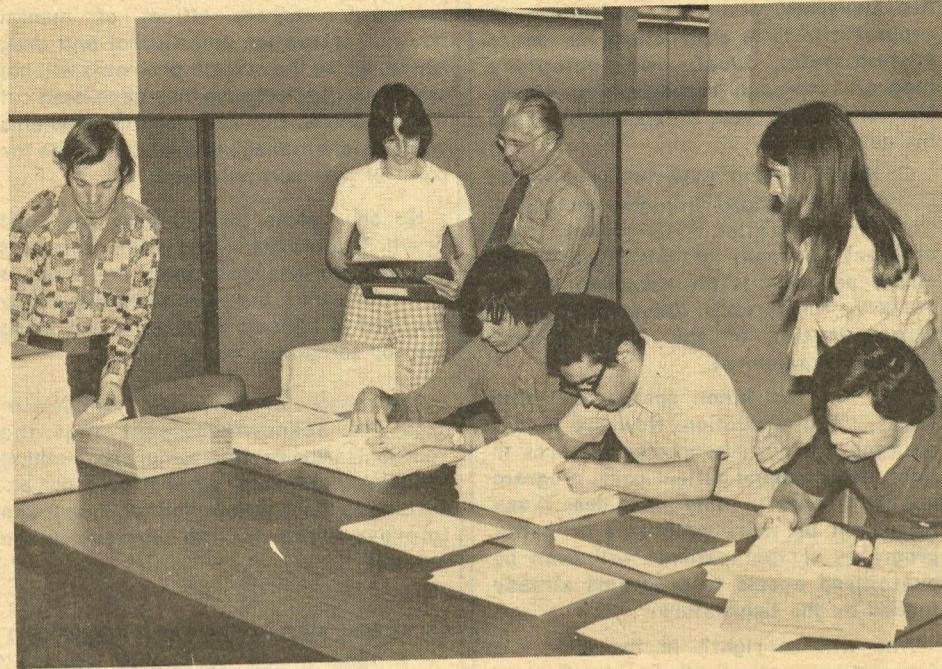
In the latter part of September, the Fort Hunter School building was purchased from the Guilderland School District.

Our chapters are doing and saying for our children.

SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER delighted the County Legislature has approved a plan to relocate and expand their East End Vocational Training Program in the Commissary Building of the Suffolk County Airport. Also excited about their Youth Walk-a-thon, which is an outstanding project there each year. . . From **ONONDAGA CHAPTER** we learn the Second Annual Unity Tennis Tournament raised \$4,500 for the Chapter after a fine weekend of tennis at the Limestone Tennis Club in Manlius. Idea for the unique fund raising event was fostered by John F. X. Mannion, President of Unity Mutual Life Insurance Company, and Adele Osinski, Unity's Public Relations Director and Onondaga ARC Board member.

"Friends of the Retarded" donated \$9,000 to the Chapter, the impressive amount coming from 2 FOR sponsored benefits, autumn '76 "Ice Follies" and last Spring's Civic Center performance of "Oklahoma."

LIVINGSTON - WYOMING CHAPTER, with their handsome new newsletter,



Onondaga ARC Adult Services and Agway, Inc. have entered into a fruitful partnership on a special job of assembly. Shown here working on an Agway catalogue are, standing left to right, Jerry Green, Agway's Cynthia Daucher and Harold E. Hunt and Supervisor Pat Lehrer. Seated are Paul Johansen, Tony Marzullo and James O'Grady.

held our annual fund raising Golf Tournament at the Windham County Club, which was a very successful event. On the weekend of September 9-11, 25 retarded citizens and five staff took a weekend trip to Lake George.

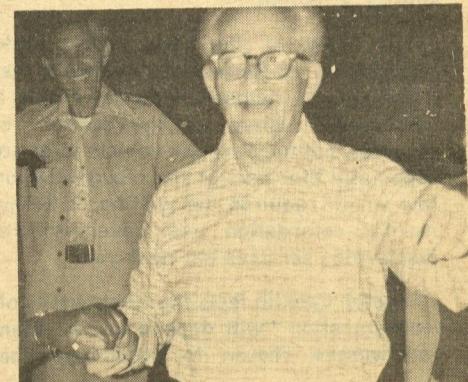
LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER very proud to have been the first recipient of a "make ready" grant for hostels from the Department of Mental Hygiene, in their particular area. \$11,310 were given to **LEWIS COUNTY**. . . **FULTON COUNTY CHAPTER** writes to say "Twenty-eight teams played in the Third Annual Lexington Tennis Tournament on Saturday, September 10, 1977. Karen Czelusniak and Candy Fisher won the Ladies Doubles Championship and Bill Woszyna and Bob Sumislawski captured the Men's Doubles Crown. This successful event raised over \$300 for the benefit of **FULTON COUNTY ARC**."

The Annual Fair, which was held on

June 9-12, 1977, raised over \$14,000 for the **FULTON COUNTY ARC**, Lexington Center was highlighted by a six foot hot air balloon display, a parade which included participation by local groups and bands, a performance by Ronald McDonald, pony rides, exhibits, celebrity dunk, a community breakfast, a C.B. balloon retrieval contest, local entertainment, and refreshments.

A 3,572 sq. ft. addition to the **FULTON COUNTY ARC**, Lexington Center's main facility, was completed during the month of September; and is currently occupied by 45 clients. This addition was necessary to alleviate the crowded condition which arose in the Center's main facility. . . Let's close at this time with happy news from **RENSSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER**: "The **RENSSELAER ARC** sends along word of the beginning of a successful Sunday evening Bingo program. During

the first nine weeks of operation, the Chapter netted over \$3,000 from Bingo. **RENSSELAER** has also recently opened their seventh community residence located at 567 Third Avenue in Troy. This facility will be home for eight retarded adults. Finally, the **RENSSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER** reports a great deal of activity in the guardianship area. Through the efforts of Harriet Topping, a parent and member of the Board of Directors, standard forms have been developed for guardianship applications to be used in Rensselaer County Surrogate's Court. A number of families have taken advantage of availability of these forms, which eliminates much of the time and legal fees that would be involved in guardianship applications.



Long time Community League member and member of the State Board, Leo Fixler, enjoys Sunday at Wednesdays with Community League.

Green Thumb at Ulster

The term Green Thumb usually refers to gardening of some sort. However, Green Thumb has become a symbol of another kind of growth — for the mature people of Ulster County. A Farmer's Union Organization, Green Thumb has three main purposes:

1. To employ older people in meaningful essential jobs.
2. To assist workers in upgrading their skills and assisting in placement through their on-the-job training program.
3. To provide technical assistance to public, private and potential employers of older people. . . educational programs and advice, technical and illustrative materials development, etc.

With the aid of a Federal grant, the New York State Green Thumb has solicited sponsors from the non-profit field, and interviewed interested Senior Citizens who, either want something to do, or need to supplement their income. Non-profit organizations in need of help are making use of workers, paid by Green Thumb on a part time basis.

The Ulster County Chapter of ARC is presently using three people who are interested in the program. Gertrude Villiard and Josephine Studley are helping in the secretarial area. Bob Taylor is assisting in producing Arc-Lite, the agency's newspaper and with public relations. Both sides appear to be satisfied with the arrangement, and mutual benefits accrue for all concerned.

The grant is for one year. Interested senior citizens should contact the Office of Aging, 331-9300, for information.



Carol Ann Kovic, counselor with Fulton County ARC, Lexington Center, demonstrates the new wheelchair bus recently received through the Urban Mass Transportation Administration Act which is administered by the New York State Department of Transportation.

Different views on Reorganization bill

Pros, cons, comments on new offices

Views on the reorganization of the Department of Mental Hygiene differ with different people, depending on their focus, background and bias.

For example, in a letter dated July 1977, Senator Conklin feels the legislation "produced a series of bills to create three separate, truly independent agencies to administer to the differing needs of the mentally ill, the mentally retarded, the alcoholic, and the drug abuser."

"These bills, effective April 1st of next year, after the Governor signs them, provide an opportunity for change in the state's delivery system of services to the mentally retarded. . . these bills should clearly establish accountability and authorize responsibility in one agency administering to the needs of people with a similar affliction."

The view of the New York State Association for Retarded Children is that these bills in themselves do not create a whole new system for the delivery of services, but they are the vehicle to do so, especially that part of the reorganization law which requires the writing of a new mental retardation and developmental disabilities services act next year.

Senator Conklin feels the full benefits of reorganization "will depend on the men and women chosen to implement the

Money emphasized for construction

Proudly, the October 7, 1977 issue of Mental Hygiene News, published by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, reports that the Department of Mental Hygiene recently received an \$11.3 million grant from the Economic Development Administration to finance construction and rehabilitation programs at 9 mental hygiene facilities.

The funds are part of a 4 billion dollar appropriation under the Public Works Employment Act of 1977. As noted before, Governor Carey's original list of construction proposals did not include the construction of any facility for use as a community service for the mentally disabled.

Protests to the Governor were useless. The final projects approved are:

Alcoholism Research Institute — Buffalo, \$4,476,000.

Bronx Psychiatric Center \$595,000, alteration to warehouses.

Buffalo Psychiatric Center \$96,000, alterations improvement to elevator building 13.

Central Islip Psychiatric Center \$2,317,000, improvements of electric systems.

Kingsborough Psychiatric Center \$96,000 improvement to a building and an elevator.

Manhattan Children's Psychiatric Center \$132,000 replacement of glass, main building and four residential buildings.

Rockland Psychiatric Center \$175,000, fire safety improvement, and

Wassaic Developmental Center \$459,000, replace windows and install insect and security screens.

Finally, Willard Psychiatric Center \$2,951,000 alterations and improvements to Building 136.

state's program and upon the good faith of the Governor and the Legislature to support efforts to restructure the entire system-state, local and voluntary programs through recodification of the law following a year's experience under the new system."

On the other hand, Assemblyman Robert C. Werts (R-Suffolk) is highly critical of the reorganization. He states, "An abysmal covenant of false hopes and empty promises is the substance of the pentardy set up under Governor Carey's reorganization of the State Mental Hygiene Department.

"All this legislation speaks to," said Werts, "is organization. Nowhere in this package are there concrete measures to improve or expand patient care, program quality or access. In no place does it say there will be more programs or better programs or that patients will even be guaranteed access to programs already funded by the Legislature."

Who will be right? In the end, this Association must go with Senator Conklin that only the good will of the Legislature, the Governor and people operating the program, as well as the community, will determine whether or not we can make significant changes.

Traunstein heads MR Upstate Placement Unit

The appointment of Donald M. Traunstein, Ph.D., as director of the division of mental Retardation's new Upstate Placement Unit has been announced by Thomas A. Coughlin III, acting commissioner for mental retardation.

In his new position, Dr. Traunstein will be responsible for administering and coordinating the efforts of an 80-member Upstate Placement Unit, which has been created to facilitate the movement of residents of State Developmental centers to community based programs. Prior to his new appointment, Dr. Traunstein was Executive Director of Living Resources Corp. (LIVCORP), where he developed and administered a community residential program for the mentally retarded. A graduate of Suffolk University, Dr. Traunstein received his master of science degree in social work from Boston University and his Ph.D. in social welfare from Brandeis University.

Dr. Traunstein has more than 20 years experience in the field of social welfare. He is the author of numerous publications and papers on the mentally retarded.



Advocates of the reorganization which produced separate offices of mental health, retardation and alcohol and drug abuse, agree the current problems will not disappear just because they have been cut into fractions. But they say the problems will be more manageable, and that was the point of the reorganization.

No one seems thrilled with the final result. That was reflected in the comments of some persons who called the action a "step forward," but were so cautious they declined to indicate whether it was a big leap or something more modest.

The reason for the lack of enthusiasm was the acknowledgement that the reorganization itself accomplishes nothing for DMH's patients. What it does do, according to those who pulled for it, is make improvements in the system more possible.

NYS ARC SEES IT AS STEP FORWARD

"I think it can be a step forward," commented Joseph T. Weingold, executive director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children. "If Deputy DMH Commissioner for retardation Thomas Coughlin, implements it in the spirit it is intended, and pushes for the things we want — namely support for service in the community for the retarded — then I think we can make progress." He said the reorganization package of bills approved by the Legislature was a "great improvement" over Gov. Carey's initial reform proposal. Contained in the final version was more assurance of the independence of the three offices, he asserted.

Another loss to legislative compromise was a provision permitting counties to assume control of all state and local services in their areas. Weingold said, "We objected tremendously to that

because we did not want to put the fate of our children into the hands of a community mental health board director who has been starving us to death. . . Counties will be able to undertake demonstration projects involving services, but these will be subject to legislative evaluation.

OPPOSITION COMES FROM MANY SIDES

In opposition to the reorganization were some state legislators, Civil Service Employees' Association and others who claimed the only result will be monstrous bureaucratic confusion.

Assemblyman Robert C. Wertz, R-C, Commack, said the reorganization will lead to separate commissioners with separate budgets, regulatory and hiring authorities and research capabilities. He envisioned a "hydra, a five-headed snake" developing from a plan which "holds out hope for the mentally disabled. . . but provides no funding for them."

Weingold, however, felt the potential for administrative overlap will be reduced by a provision requiring that support services for all three offices be provided by one agency, the State Office of General Services. He, too, expressed criticism over the issue of funding. Nothing came of the organization's efforts to have mental retardation funding — now skewed, he said, in favor of institutionalized patients — made more available to patients kept in the community.

The first reaction of some other consumer groups was confusion. Some were dissatisfied because they were not consulted on changes adopted into the final bills, added Winifred Winikus, head of DMH's office of citizen participation.

She said she was concerned about a "bureaucratic maze" developing. For patients, "It's a question of will they gain more than they got before."

Delaware named for demonstration project

One of the bills passed by the legislature last year created 3 or more "time-limited demonstration programs". Their purpose will be "to test and evaluate new methods or arrangements for organizing, financing, staffing and providing services for the mentally disabled in order to determine the desirability of such methods or arrangements."

Two areas were designated for mental illness. One, the Broome Developmental Center Region, was designated for mental retardation. Commissioner Tom Coughlin further limited the project to a demonstration in one, preferably rural, area in that region. He chose Delaware County. The major provider of community services in that county, Delaware Association for Retarded Children, designated as the agency to implement the program, is now constructing a building.

Under the administration of Stephen Helfgott, executive director of the Delaware County Chapter, a steering committee of various providers and interested parties, has been organized to develop the project and make recommendations to the Delaware Board of Directors.

The agencies represented on the

steering committee are Delaware ARC, Delaware County Community Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Board, Broome Developmental Services, CSEA, Central New York Region Office, Department of Mental Hygiene, and the Upstate Placement Unit, Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

The committee also resolved to invite other interested parties to participate in its activities, such as Delaware Opportunities, Delaware County Family Caretakers Association, BOCES, OVR, Delaware County Office of the Aged, Health Systems Agency, and the Delaware County Coordinating Council.

All this is in the formative stage at this point and awaits further development.

A number of years ago, under the interdepartmental resources board, a demonstration project of this kind was awarded to Rochester to establish a cradle to the grave program for the mentally retarded. It was given to the Community Mental Health Board. The group finished its work but refused to write a final report. Whatever happened there is in the archives of the individual memories.

Troy zoners OK hostel

The Troy zoning board unanimously approved the location of a home for mentally retarded adults in Lansingburgh despite vehement objections by about 40 neighbors carrying petitions signed by about 100 others.

After hours of debate, the board said the Rensselaer County Association for Retarded Children could use a single family home at 567 Third Ave. as a hostel for eight retarded persons and two supervisors. The neighbors praised the efforts of the ARC but protested the association's plans to perform them near their homes. Their concerns ranged from the safety of their children to the protection of their property values.

"People with mental problems — you just can't be sure what they are going to do," was a typical statement from one of the opponents' chief spokesmen. "The fabric of the neighborhood will never be the same. The fabric of the neighborhood will be destroyed," he insisted. Some had other concerns: What can a 28 year old man do to one of these children half a block away at the St. Augustine's School? How are we protected? How are our pocketbooks protected?"

"At what age does the sex drive leave these people?" "We have children going through this area."

Others were concerned with such problems as parking and pedestrian safety on already crowded streets in the area.

But emotions ran high on both sides of the issue. One man argued, "These are people who cannot do for themselves. I don't believe they will do any harm in my neighborhood. I am willing to give them a chance in my neighborhood."

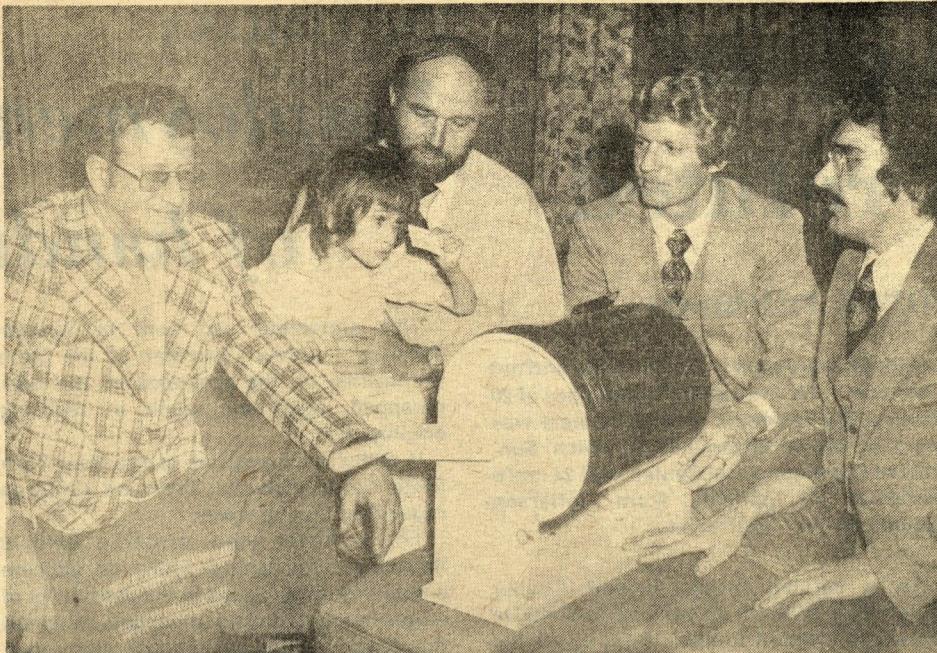
Tuition for foster children

School districts should be alerted to Commissioner's Decision No. 9417 regarding an Appeal by a small, rural school district against a larger city school district. The Appeal concerned the lack of payment of tuition for 22 pupils placed in family homes at board in the small district whose parents resided in the large city school district.

Under paragraph a, of subdivision 5 of Section 3202 of the Education Law, the school district providing educational services to foster children is entitled to tuition payment from the school district where the parents resided when the children came under the care of the social service district. The Commissioner cited the Court of Appeals ruling in the case of *Jeter vs. Ellenville*, which confirmed that cost of instruction is imposed on the school district where the parents resided when the children came under the care of the social service district.

However, in Decision No. 9417, the Commissioner noted the small central school had not requested payment from the city school district until April 1976 for educational services rendered in 1973-74 and 1974-75, and, therefore, the Appeal was dismissed for "laches." Laches is defined as "undue delay in asserting a legal right or privilege."

School districts providing educational services to foster children whose parents live out of the district are advised not to delay the billing process. They should bill other school districts promptly and keep accurate records of the dates the bills were sent.



Last act of service

This picture shows Nina Caldwell, one of the little girls who attended the ARC school of our Madison County Chapter, drawing the winning ticket in a fund raising raffle which cleared \$1500 for the chapter.

Three days later, Nina died of strangulation on a piece of meat. To Mr.

and Mrs. James E. Caldwell of Lorraine Drive, Canastota, all of us in the Association extend our sincere condolences, but here in this picture is the way all of us would like to remember our retarded children as long as they are with us.

County to construct

building for Delaware

Delaware County will construct a building, at a cost of about \$600,000, for the Delaware County Association for Retarded Children.

The County Budget Director said the county fund would come from surpluses in the 1978 budget. According to the regional department program analyst located in Syracuse, the State Department of Mental Hygiene would repay the county for the building over a term of 10 to 20 years.

The chapter presently operates a "work activity center" and a program for retarded, pre-school age children. There are now 35 adults in the work program and a dozen children in two phases of that program. The new building would allow room for a new program for persons too severely retarded for a workshop. The expansion would also involve purchasing buses to bring clients from all parts of the county. There are at least 160 persons

already known to need ARC services.

The Mental Hygiene Department is under pressure to get persons now in "family care" homes into training and activity programs such as those provided by the ARC. Many of these persons were moved out of institutions several years ago. Those in institutions between 1969 to 1973 are eligible for 100 per cent state support. The state's current philosophy is to return patients to the community and save nearly 50 per cent of the cost of keeping them in hospitals.

When a site for a new building was discussed, it appeared that one had already been considered. It is a 6 acre area near the building complex now under construction by New York State Electric and Gas Corporation in Hamden. Twenty thousand square feet of space is necessary. All supervisors except one voted in favor of the new building.

Genesee begins central registry

Developmentally disabled children and adults may obtain future services and participate in special programs by signing up with the Genesee County Association for Retarded Children's "Central Registry". The registry is a community project geared toward locating the mentally disabled and serving their needs. It was formed about a year ago upon the recommendation of a Mental Health Board committee in the county.

By identifying the mentally retarded and handicapped in Genesee County, the ARC will be able to request appropriate government support which, in turn, will lead to better programs and facilities. It will also help the ARC to plan for the future of developmentally disabled people more

efficiently and effectively. Eventually, any person registered can be put in touch with any needed service.

The Genesee County ARC works very closely with the West Seneca Developmental Center in bringing provider and consumer groups together in helping the handicapped.

A parent of a retarded child or an adult with a developmental disability can submit his name to the Central Registry by calling the Association for Retarded Children in Genesee County stating his or her interest in the Registry. In some cases, social workers involved with the developmentally disabled can assist their clients in registering.

Lexington reaches subcontract high

On October 11, 1977, the number and variety of different sub-contract tasks at the Lexington Center Sheltered Workshop reached an all time high. These jobs were performed on that day: 1.) separating leg warmers and knitted tube socks; 2.) folding cuffs, sew on merrow machine, and then turn them; 3.) sewing split gloves; 4.) hemming glove tops; 5.) sew lamb linings on Ossan machine; 6.) sew lamb mittens on zig-zag machine; 7.) mending holes in knitted gloves; 8.) pull yarn through knitted gloves; 9.) insert mitten linings into mitten, tacking them together with tag, apply label, then bag them; 10.) open frames and crimp corners on pocketbook handles; 11.) cut circle gaskets; 12.) lace moccassins; 13.) cut brush plugs to size on band saw; 14.) scrape and paint broom caps; 15.) insert letter and coupons into envelope, seal, type address and sort according to zip code; 16.) wind thread on valves; 17.) place balloons on threaded valves and then place on plastic belt; 18.) cut square for swatches and apply to booklet; 19.) disassemble telephone hand sets; 20.) wash, buff, inspect, and bag telephone hand sets and shells; 21.) wash and wind telephone cords; 22.) assemble paint rollers; 23.) put white strip and color chips onto bottle tray; 24.) open candy cartons and repack them; 25.) assemble marking pen holders; 26.) assemble cutters; 27.) ream metal tubes.

Carey names

Advocate

Harold Unterberg, a New York City lawyer, has been appointed New York State's Advocate for the Disabled, a post set up early last year by Governor Carey in an effort to improve conditions for the handicapped.

The 61-year old Unterberg is an adviser to the Governor and the Legislature on matters affecting the handicapped and disabled. His office, a division of the Department of State, is responsible for coordinating services for the handicapped among state agencies and for developing new policies to assist the disabled.

Unterberg, who has a circulatory disability as a result of injuries suffered during service in World War II in the North Atlantic and the Arctic, assumed the \$34,000-a-year post on November 1. He described his duties as those of a "lobbying agent" within the government and said his role would be to develop programs to aid the handicapped and to make sure that those already existing were effective.

"There is legislation on the books," Unterberg said. "The problem is one of awareness, of sensitivity and of how this legislation is being implemented." He said his office would focus on education, transportation and housing of the handicapped and disabled, along with civil rights and employment problems, and it would attempt to "bring to the Legislature an awareness of the needs" of the handicapped.

The office of the Advocate for the Disabled is also intended to serve as a clearinghouse for information for the handicapped. It will offer referrals through a toll-free telephone hot line and over the teletypewriter system used by the deaf in place of telephone communication. The office was established by executive order last June by Gov. Carey, who said he wanted to "eliminate obstacles to dignity and achievement, which the disabled may face as a result of a government and society being unaware of their needs."

“Dumping” in Jefferson refuted

Oneida also scores releases

The acting Commissioner for the New York State Office for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Thomas C. Coughlin III, attacked Jefferson County Clerk Donald C. Andrus' charge that the state was trying to use Jefferson County as a "dumping ground" for the mentally ill and retarded. Coughlin, former director of the Jefferson County Association for Retarded Children, said the county has not and will not become such a "dumping ground". Contrary to the County Clerk's allegations, Coughlin said there has been nothing "clandestine" about the placement of non-county residents in Jefferson County mental health programs. He said the creation of each hostel to house them had met with the approval of the community mental health board, a body appointed by the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors. He stressed the presence of non-county residents at ARC hostels and other county facilities was not part of a continuing trend.

Coughlin emphatically stated there are no single occupancies in Jefferson County, as opposed to the situation in Long Beach when mental patients flooded the area in single room occupancies without supervision from Pilgrim State Hospital, from which they were released. He said each resident in hostels and half-way houses in Jefferson County had full supervision and recreation. The costs of all non-county

residents were paid for by the state and not the county. He indicated the presence of 20 non-county residents at ARC hostels was part of an arrangement in which Sunmount Developmental Center kept 24 more seriously ill patients from Jefferson County in that institution.

In a related move, Oneida County Executive William Bryant served notice he would attempt to block funding for the local chapter of the Association for Retarded Children if the agency unwittingly became a means for "dumping" the institutionalized retarded onto the community.

"Traditionally," Bryant said, "ARC has served people living in the community, but now it seems to be helping to carry out the state's policy of deinstitutionalization at the Rome Developmental Center and parents concerned with the needs of retarded children living at home have a legitimate complaint that the needs of their children are not being met. He said he doesn't personally favor large institutions for the retarded, but "they are the lesser of two evils when former residents are being dumped into communities without the state spending the money to establish the community programs and services these residents need."

Office of Independent Living established

The Office of Independent Living for the Disabled will be responsible for assuring that HUD is more aware of the housing environmental needs of disabled Americans. David Williamson has been named head of the new office.

In addition to the creation of OILD, the following new initiatives were announced:

(1) a department-wide goal of having five per cent of all new family units constructed under Section 8, (HUD's huge rent subsidy program), and other public housing authorities occupied by handicapped individuals; (2) local communities will be urged by HUD officials to spend a larger share of their Community Development Block Grant funds to eliminate architectural barriers and to build rehabilitation facilities; (3) HUD officials will explore innovative approaches to developing alternative housing environments for the mentally retarded; and (4) under the leadership of the Office of Independent Living for the Disabled, a work group will be established to draft HUD regulations spelling out the civil rights of disabled persons. In addition, Secretary Harris will continue to work with the Ad Hoc Committee on Independent Living and also explore the possibility of establishing a consumer advisory committee on independent living.

The new HUD plans are intended to unravel the bureaucratic snarls which, in the past, have proved so frustrating to advocates of expanded and improved handicapped housing.

Thanks from Sunmount

Mrs. Esther Futterman, Institution Committee Chairperson of the Franklin County Chapter, thanks all the Chapters that have contributed to the Sunmount Developmental Center Institution Fund.

Since March of 1976, \$1,071.95 has been spent for the purchase of such items as a three-wheel adult bicycle, hot plate, eating and cooking utensils for mealtime programs, recreational items, etc. for these departments: Recreation, Arts Festival, Speech and Hearing, Education, Occupational Therapy and Team Coordinators.

Thank you for helping us!

TESTIMONY Employment problems of handicapped

This statement was sent to Senator Norman J. Levy, Chairman of the State Committee on the problems of the handicapped, aged and youth in securing employment.

It reflects the position of the New York State Association for Retarded Children regarding this concern:

There have been massive efforts throughout the United States to educate employers with regard to the possibility of employment of the handicapped, in whom this Association is particularly interested. Such education, however, must be done on a more formal basis through brochures, pamphlets, television, and radio spots. In addition, the insurance industry must be instructed that the employment of the handicapped does not create unusual hazards in terms of workmen's compensation. Perhaps, legislation is necessary at this point to forbid differential in rates in workmen's compensation for handicapped employees.

The recent laws passed by the Legislature permitting the employment of mentally retarded persons in Civil Service jobs has been a very good and important first step, but it should not stop there.

Volunteerism can only go so far in employment of the handicapped. We have, in our state, enough legislation against discrimination of the handicapped in employment almost to mandate such employment, but without significant success. The fact that newspaper articles are written every time a severely handicapped person is employed in industry, is an indication these are unique examples and not characteristic of our economy.

As a matter of legislative interest, a law be passed mandating that every industry

employing a certain number of persons shall also employ one or more handicapped in proportion to total labor force.

If this is too much to swallow at one gulp, this might be limited to those industries receiving any aid from the state or producing any goods for the state.

This concept is not unknown, and has been used in England for some time.

You might in a sense say, that this is an extension of the quota system to redress the almost centuries of neglect of, and wrong done, to the handicapped in terms of employment.

Certainly at this late date, it goes without saying that a significant number of the handicapped can become tax producers, instead of consumers.

One of the largest employers of the handicapped in the state are the sheltered workshops. We are now dealing with the more severely handicapped incapable of self sustaining employment in industry. Under the Education Law, where the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has been placed, non-profit agencies giving long-term employment to the severely handicapped now may receive, from the state, up to \$1500 a year to help pay some of the expenses. But, the costs of such a program run to \$4000 and \$5000 a year. Furthermore, the state has been reluctant to provide this \$1500. It has, in fact, reduced this to \$1000. We, therefore, suggest that legislation be passed mandating the payment of the \$1500 and making permissive payments up to \$2000 a year of the agencies providing this long-term employment.

Such employment prevents institutionalization, and frequently removes the person from being a public charge.

NYS gains top share

of housing dollars

STATE ARC RECEIVES \$2,071,600

Nearly one-third of the portion of Federal funds recently earmarked for housing for the handicapped, under a program which also provides housing for the elderly, will go to New York State.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced that about \$3.8 million, or 32 per cent, of the total \$11.1 million reserved for projects for the handicapped will be used for New York State projects. Sponsors will provide housing for the mentally disabled. Nationwide, more than 20 sponsors plan to develop group homes for the retarded, limited up to 12 residents.

Eligible applicants for Section 202 assistance may borrow directly from HUD up to 100 per cent of the total development costs for their project. Loans must be repaid over a 40 year period at an interest rate based on what the U.S. Treasury receives when it borrows.

The successful ARC applicants are:

Montgomery County Chapter, \$177,000; Oneida County Chapter, \$531,300; and the State Association \$2,071,600 for 60 units (up to 2 in a unit). State ARC projects will cover 12 or more counties throughout the state. It is the largest single grant of its size ever made by HUD.

Governor signs bill to prevent m. r.

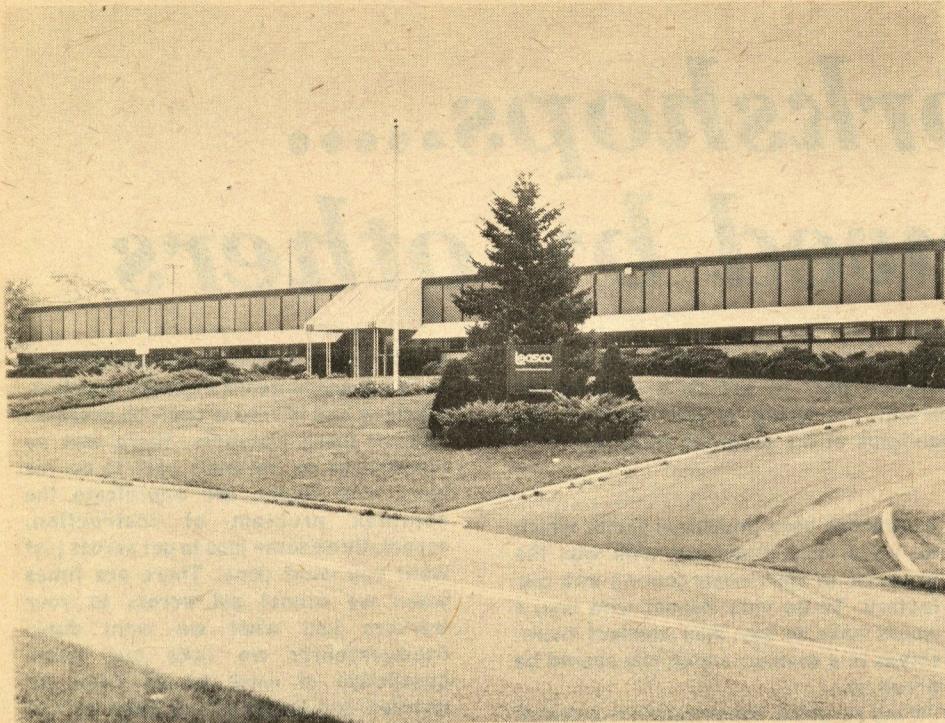
Governor Carey has signed a bill aimed at the prevention of severe mental retardation through the testing of new born infants for hypothyroidism. The improved bill adds this disease to sickle cell anemia and PKU for which section 2500 (a) of the Public Health Law now mandates testing of the newborn.

Responsibility for the testing rests with the institution caring for the infant.

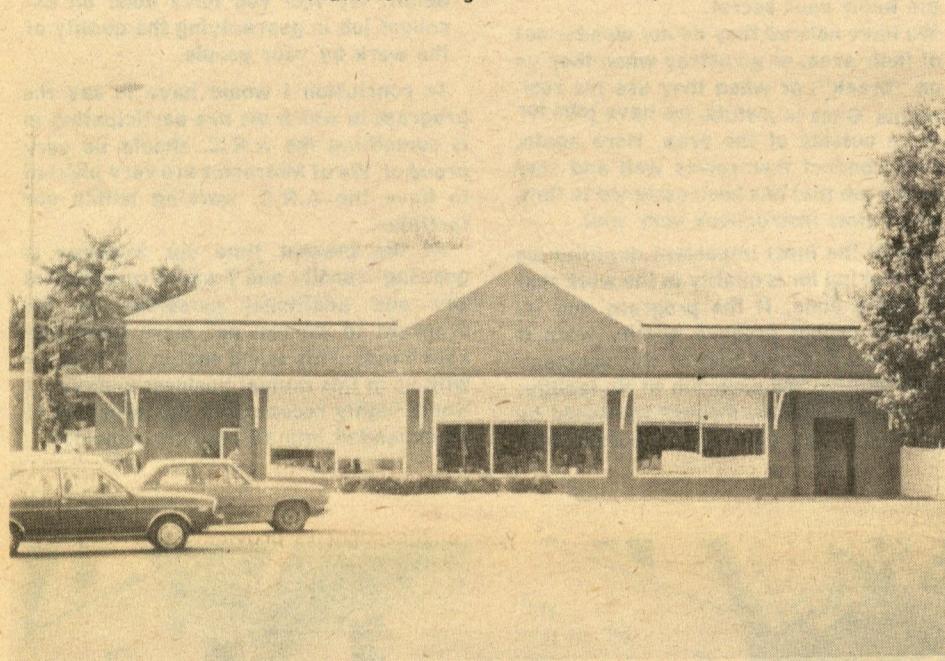
The Health Department and other experts say, if hypothyroidism is present and

not diagnosed in the immediately new born infant, severe mental retardation will result. If detected, the disease can be effectively treated and the retardation prevented.

Pilot programs in Montreal and on the west coast have resulted in its detection in one of every four in 6,000 infants actually tested. This could mean, in New York State, that up to 50 children a year could be similarly detected and spared retardation.



Plainview Long Island Workshop



Exterior-Saugerties Workshop

Chapters launch expansion programs

An expansion program has been launched by the Nassau County Association for the Help of Retarded Children. The program has the potential for an increase of 50 per cent in that organization's vocational program.

Private funding is providing nearly one million dollars for the acquisition and renovation of a forty-four thousand square foot facility in Plainview, Long Island. AHRC plans to dedicate the building, formerly owned by the Reliance Group, in the late spring in honor of Gertrude and the late Charles Merinoff of Atlantic Beach, both long-time benefactors of AHRC. The new facility will serve about two hundred mentally retarded adults, some of whom have been on a waiting list for several years.

Funds to support the center programs will come from private donations, industrial contracts, and a state and county subsidy. While a few of the men and women at the new facility will live in AHRC's residential hostels, most will reside at home with their families and some will be residents of the Suffolk Developmental Center in Melville.

Helen Kaplan, Executive Director of the Nassau AHRC, in announcing the expansion, emphasized the organization "had no choice but to expand due to a

severe cutback in state facilities for the retarded and the pressure of a waiting list which was growing daily." According to Mrs. Kaplan, the new facility should be able to accommodate the vocational training needs of Nassau County's adult retarded at least into the early 1980's.

The Ulster County Chapter of the Association for Retarded Children opened its third workshop on Monday, August 29th. The new facility is located in the Village of Saugerties.

This modern, brick building has 8,800 square feet of space with ample parking and has been completely renovated for the special needs of the handicapped.

Executive Director, Joseph E. Ryan, negotiated two Purchase of Service contracts for \$46,700 with the Department of Mental Hygiene that will provide staff salaries and equipment for the workshop. Mr. Ryan also received a special Project Award for \$67,508 when he agreed to train 10 people under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), which is a federally sponsored program.

The A.R.C. is the only non-profit agency that provides a comprehensive "cradle to the grave" program and a staff that exclusively serves the largest number of retarded children and adults in the county.

Fourth hostel in Ulster

The Ulster County Association for Retarded Children has spearheaded new residences for the retarded in the county. Its fourth and newest home, in Saugerties, formally opened recently.

Although the home was the subject of some controversy since nine retarded men and their houseparents moved in last July, it was hoped the formal opening would bring about a better understanding between the mentally retarded newcomers and their neighbors.

Some of those neighbors have viewed the home with suspicion, hostility and resistance. They have complained to the village board that the local zoning officer made a mistake in permitting the home to open in the former house of a doctor at 80 Ulster Avenue. The home, they have insisted, should come under the classification of a boarding house in a neighborhood that is zoned residential.

They felt it was "depressing" to have the house in their immediate environs, and suggested that few would want to live next to it. Their reaction was not particularly unusual. It is state policy to seek places for the retarded in the community, and the policy has been encouraged in part by the Federal Courts. But the effort often draws protests almost everywhere that the homes will "ruin the neighborhood," devalue nearby properties, and "endanger" small children because of the unpredictability of retarded adults.

The general public views the community residences as "mental institutions." ARC and those who support its philosophy work at overcoming those attitudes by pointing out the fact that retarded people are not generally mental patients. They en-

courage neighbors to visit the homes and point out that if others treat retarded people as they are, they'll stay like they are. They urge neighbors and other residents of the community to treat them as what they can become, on the theory that they will show growth as a result.

That the new community residence for the nine retarded men in Saugerties is legal under local zoning is a fact supported by local officials. It does not violate single-family zoning, they say, since it is part of a state policy that envisioned "a single housekeeping unit to replace the usual institutional setting."

In short, what ARC has established in its four area residences is a family unit that fits in with the life style intended for a family oriented neighborhood.

Former village mayor Mrs. Erika Hinckley cut the ceremonial ribbon and named the Ulster residence in memory of Richard Linnabary, a Saugerties native who died while living at the Wassac Developmental Center, a state institution for the retarded.

Members of Mr. Linnabary's family, who still reside in the Saugerties area, attended the open house and the community at large was invited to view the renovated rooms.

The building has been completely renovated for the special needs of the handicapped, and has ample parking. ARC also negotiated two Purchase of Service contracts for \$46,700 with the Department of Mental Hygiene to provide staff salaries and equipment for the workshop. A Special Project Award was also received for \$67,508 to train 10 people under the federal CETA program.

\$673,000 grant to Montgomery

A new Liberty House Training Center is on the road to construction with the announcement of final funding approval of the project under the federal Public Works Jobs Bill.

Rep. Samuel S. Stratton announced the federal Economic Development Administration has approved a total \$673,000 grant for the facility. It will be combined with state aid to construct a \$1 million structure in Amsterdam.

The funds for the project were signed over to the Montgomery County Association for Retarded Children (ARC), the parent organization of Liberty House, by Montgomery County and the City of Amsterdam. The new center will replace the present facility in the former Fort Johnson School as a comprehensive rehabilitation center for the retarded, blind, deaf, and emotionally disturbed.

Frank Capone, executive director of Liberty House, said architectural planning for the facility is nearly complete, the specifications would go to bid soon and ground breaking would occur this year. Construction estimates indicated the facility could be built in approximately eight months after construction begins.

Capone said the association is grateful to the county's Board of Supervisors and

Amsterdam's mayor and common council for their help in arranging the funding. Anticipated funding includes no local tax money, Capone said.

The building will be approximately 22,000 square feet in size and will occupy a six acre lot.

After construction, the center will need funding for equipment and a storage facility but those are secondary priorities. Guidelines relating to the federal program limit appropriation of grant money for equipment purchase.

Amsterdam architect William Cooper is designing the new facility and most planning is complete. This was necessary as part of the funding application process.

The Liberty House grant actually consists of two separate authorizations from the county and city. Of the total grant, \$399,000 was signed over to the project by the county. That figure was the total appropriation for the county under the federal program.

The city's \$274,000 contribution is a part of a total \$2.2 million appropriation for Amsterdam under the federal economic stimulation program. The city has earmarked the remainder of its grant for a streets and sidewalks program.

ARC Chapters receive four DDC grants

The Developmental Disabilities Council approved 22 grants to community agencies for services to the developmentally disabled totalling \$594,604.

Eight projects provide early identification and treatment for infants 0 to 3; 5, vocational or other meaningful activities for adults; 4, recreation programs to increase ability to participate in community activity; 3, to assure that necessary health services are available and accessible; and 2, to provide less restrictive living arrangements for developmentally disabled.

Four approved grants went to ARC chapters: Steuben, \$28,028 for "life management skills via community residences"; Clinton County Chapter, \$27,912 for an "Infant program"; Chemung County Chapter for 3 years, \$16,310 for "Comprehensive socio-recreational opportunities"; and Essex County, \$30,642 for a "community integration team".

In every case, the agency must contribute 30 per cent of the budget.

Bronx D.C. criticism

In response to an article in *Newsweek*, "Living in a Work of Art", a description of the Bronx Developmental Center, strong criticism has been voiced from around the country.

Eleanor S. Elkin, former president of the National Association for Retarded Citizens and now a consultant to the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, wrote to *Newsweek*, "Richard Meier, a brilliant young architect by reputation, . . . has been fooled by the New York Department of Mental Hygiene and perhaps by his own lack of experience with mentally retarded individuals into designing a structure for a socially invalid purpose."

She continues, "It has been said that the strange, oblong slits under some windows were designed to let severely handicapped people, who must lay on the floor, see outside. Mentally retarded children and adults should not be left to lie on the floor, but should have programs to keep them active and reduce the need for drugs. Physically handicapped persons must have wheel chairs, walkers, and other appliances that position them properly for mobility and comfort. These windows speak of hopelessness and not the joy of living."

Although, indeed, a Rolls Royce, as it has been termed, and a work of art, it deserves great commendation as such. But there is a considerable doubt as to whether it serves a useful social function.

When the first designs for these buildings were set before the Association, a representative of the Department of Mental Hygiene; Jim Reville, Association President at that time; and Jerry Weingold, rejected them completely and continued to reject every other design placed before them.

As a matter of fact, the State Association was opposed to the construction of this institution in any shape, manner or form but was overruled. Now we have the spectacle of a struggle between one force that says no one shall go into there, another force that says this is better than living in older institutions, and still a third force that says, why did we waste the money?

Recently, two articles came to the attention of the Association regarding various work being done in two of our local Chapter workshops. Sue Morse of Onondaga ARC sent us this release with regard to a job performed by the Onondaga ARC workshop:

"If you have occasion to need a reference on workmanship, I would be more than happy to talk to anyone about the job that was performed."

These are the words of a satisfied customer, Harold E. Hunt, Program Sales Coordinator for the Merchandising Division of Agway, Inc. in Syracuse. In a letter to Donald A. Simpson, ARC Marketing Manager, Mr. Hunt praised the work of a group of clients from the workshop who performed a pilot project on site at Agway.

Eight clients and 2 supervisors spent three days in April assembling the company's "SHOWCASE 1977 Promotional Planning and Order Book", a semi-annual catalogue sent to 603 Agway retail points. According to Mr. Hunt, "the clients conducted themselves real well . . . and seemed to enjoy the challenge of putting the book together properly, checking each other for errors so that the final results would be satisfactory".

Chief measure of the project's success has come through Agway's commitment to give the ARC workshop repeat business. Another group of clients was engaged to go to Agway's Merchandising Services Facility on Bridge Street for a similar project in June.

Not to be outdone, Herkimer Chapter sent us this letter from Mr. Otto Demuth, Plant Manager of Motronics Corporation, at whose plant some of our clients work under supervision: "I want to take this time to express our feelings and observations of the present program which you are conducting at the Motronics facility. We have just completed six months of the program, which took four

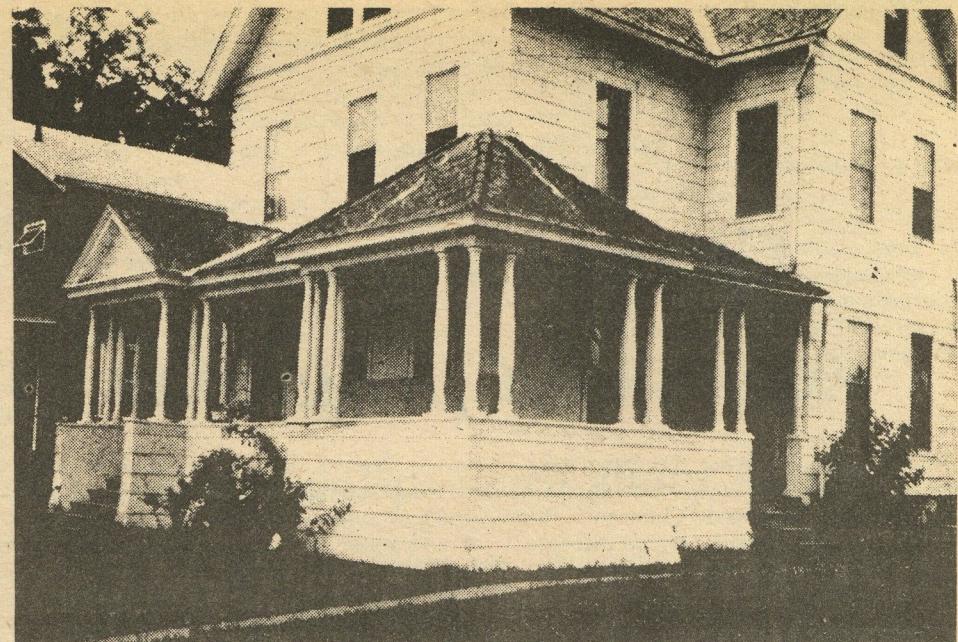
years of continuous effort on Frank Bierant's part to get such a program started. I'm going to list some of the highlights of the program thus far:

1. I think one very important factor which we were very concerned with was the behavior of the people coming into our factory. To be very honest with you, I would have to say they conduct themselves in a manner which you should be proud of.
2. To my surprise, absenteeism is unheard of from your people. I wish you would let me know your secret.
3. We have noticed they do not wander out of their area, or go astray when they go on "break", or when they use the restrooms. Once in awhile, we have jobs for them outside of the area. Here again, they conduct themselves well and stay on the job that has been assigned to them, and follow instructions very well.
4. One of the most important qualities we are looking for is quality in the work that is being done. If the program and its people cannot produce quality work it becomes a direct cost to the company maintaining the program at its facility. It means what we thought we would be gaining is lost, plus to have it done over

is lost time and money. Fortunately, we have not encountered a quality problem. We have had to return work on occasion and, in these instances, there was no resentment on anyone's part to do the work over again. We appreciate the complex problem of instruction, especially on some jobs to get across just what you want done. There are times when we cannot get across to your workers just what we want done. Inadvertently we take our basic knowledge of work to be done for granted and forget others must be told and shown jobs to be done in every detail. We feel you have done an excellent job in guaranteeing the quality of the work by your people.

In conclusion I would have to say the program in which we are participating is something the A.R.C. should be very proud of. We at Motronics are very pleased to have the A.R.C. working within our facilities.

At the present time our business is growing steadily and I would recommend you add additional personnel to the program so we can put more work into your hands. This would enable you to grow with us in this mutual business endeavor. I would highly recommend this program to be expanded into all industry aspects".



This convent in Clyde is now a community residence for 10 persons. The building was purchased by the Wayne County Chapter.

Who is client? Parent or child?

In a recent letter, Robert J. Hodgson, a past President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children, succinctly answered the question of who is the client and for whom the agency and the social worker is working:

We are a parents' organization, and the client is the parent. If you had an "of-age" person, capable of managing his own person and affairs, the situation might be different, but we are dealing only with persons who are either under age or incapable because of mental retardation or both.

When there is a disagreement between the child and the parents, it is the parents' wishes which will control, and not the child as you have underlined. Any social worker who forgets or ignores this should be immediately terminated.

The issue recently came up in the Education Department Regulations for Committees for the Handicapped which came before the Commissioner's Advisory Panel for approval in which the hearing officer was to decide if there were a conflict between parent and child and, if so, appoint a surrogate parent. At that

time, I went on record that any parent faced with such a decision from a hearing officer (or social worker) should have two options. One would be to take a baseball bat to the person making the decision, or two would be to turn the child over to the person with a demand that he or she assume full financial and other responsibility for feeding, clothing and raising the child. This position met with enthusiastic approval from the Advisory Panel.

We as parents were, and are, all fed up the teeth with the idea that children have special rights vis-a-vis their parents and that some hearing officer or social worker not dry behind the ears will be imposing his or her immature judgment over that of the parent. I am sure, as I state in my lectures, that there are some poor parents, but they are still the ones who have the responsibility for the child, not some social worker who is more often infinitely worse. Substituting the parents' judgment with that of the state or an agency is a throwback to Hitler and Mussolini or Mao Tse Tung.

Wayne acquires former convent

A former Catholic Convent opened its doors to six men and four women as a community residence owned and operated by the Wayne County Association for Retarded Children. The ARC purchased the large house from St. John's Parish at a reported price of \$30,000.

Residents range from 18 to 37 years of age and come from their own homes as well as from the Newark Developmental Center. The new facility is the second in Wayne County and one of 127 in New York State.

Madeline Bressler of Geneva is the full time resident counselor Barbara Pyle is executive director of the Wayne County ARC. Serving with her since September is Mrs. Ann Burke, director of Community Residences, who is supervising both homes.

Funding for the program is shared equally by the NYS Department of Mental Hygiene and the clients' families, some of whom also receive additional financial assistance.

Tax deductions for your handicapped child

1. If your child attends a special school or institution which alleviates his mental or physical condition, you may deduct the following as 'medical' expenses:

1. tuition costs
2. cost of room and board
3. cost of sheltered workshop — revenue ruling 58-280

2. If your handicapped child lives at home, you may deduct as 'medical' expenses the cost of:

1. special school — if the principal purpose is to alleviate his/her handicap
2. tests and evaluations

3. special instruction or training, such as lip reading, speech instruction, braille... revenue ruling 68-212

4. drugs and vitamins to the extent they exceed 1 per cent of your adjusted gross income

5. All medical expenses, even though the child has earned more than \$750 annual income.

3. If your handicapped child attends a

sheltered workshop, you may deduct as 'medical' expenses the cost of the workshop, if the primary purpose is to alleviate his/her handicap. (Letter from Mortimer M. Caplin, U.S. Commissioner of Internal Revenue to Dr. Stafford L. Warren, Special Assistant to the President for Mental Retardation, July 6, 1964.)

4. If you incur transportation costs (train, bus, taxi fare) with your handicapped child, you may deduct them as 'medical' expenses if they are incurred going to and from:

1. special schools or institutions
2. parking fees
3. doctors' offices

(R.T. Oson 23 TMC-2008)

5. If you provide the transportation yourself, you may deduct as medical expenses the actual costs incurred or:

1. 6 cents per mile
2. parking fees
3. toll fees

(Rev. Proc. 70-24, I.R.B.; 1970-2, 505)

6. If you visit your handicapped child at a special school or institution, you may deduct transportation costs as medical expenses (but not meals and lodging) if the medical experts deem your visit a necessary part of treatment.

7. Parents' attendance at meetings of groups of parents of disabled children may be interpreted as a deductible expense, especially if you can show that you have been advised by a professional to attend such meetings in the interest of your child's welfare.

Attendance must be for "educational" purposes, that is, helping you as parents to understand and support your disabled child better.

Attendance at social functions is not a tax deductible expense.

Expenses may be deductible if they exceed the cost of normal needs. For example, the cost of a special diet exceeding the cost of an ordinary diet is deductible.

If you have any questions, you are urged to consult with a professional tax expert or your local IRS office.

ARC Voc-Rehab program

A recent questionnaire, prepared by Ewald Gastrom, Chairman of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee, was sent to all chapters asking them for a survey of what is going on in the state.

All chapters received it. Only 39 replied. Fourteen others fell into a "not applicable" category. Bearing in mind that, as of this writing, we have not received responses from Greene, Nassau, New York City, Onondaga, Steuben and Suffolk. Whose input would be significant, the following data is qualified.

— Reporting chapters indicated a total of 5,020 served in workshop programs.

— Across the state, an average 27 per cent of the clients served are non-funded.

— On a regional basis, 22 per cent of the clients served in the southeast and central sectors are non-funded while 33 per cent of the clients in the western and north western regions are non-funded.

— There are 59 workshops and satellites presently operating. They serve a minimum of 6 to a maximum of 275 clients. On a regional basis, 926 are served in northeast; 1275 in the west; 1090 in the southeast, and 1729 in the central region.

— OVR receipts, on a regional basis, amount to \$884,082 northeast; \$968,488 west; \$1,414,260 central; and \$676,657 southeast, a total of almost \$4 million.

Workshop sales — contracts, on a regional basis, amount to \$522,000 northeast; \$577,000 west; \$810,000 central, and \$322,000 southeast.

— Client wages, on a regional basis, amount to \$456,000 northeast; \$495,000 west; \$684,000 central and \$405,000 southeast.

It was not possible with the information at hand to draw a conclusion concerning SEP, or evaluation, and PAT figures because many of our chapters did not report separately in terms of those specific categories. This information is certainly valuable in terms of the future functioning of the committee. It especially demonstrates that we must have more complete cooperation from the chapters in filling out this kind of questionnaire.

The questionnaires are not sent for the purpose of annoying the chapters but to gather information that would be of value in dealing with the state, according to Ewald Gastrom.

Audit raps Manhattan D.C.

The State Mental Hygiene Department spends \$13 million annually to care for 362 retarded children and adults at one center alone — about \$35,000 a year each — but patient services are inadequate, a state report said recently.

In an audit of the Manhattan Developmental Center, State Controller Arthur Levitt said the patients' situation had been complicated further by staff funding.

"Discord among the director, deputy director — clinical and deputy director for institutional administration resulted in charges of incompetence and insubordination," said Levitt. "Center staff frequently advised us that morale was low."

According to the study, the center, at 75 Morton St. in Greenwich Village, maintains its 362 clients in three units — The Gouverneur unit downtown, Keener unit on Wards Island and Sheridan unit in the Village. Sheridan gets the major share of the center's budget — \$7.4 million for 108 patients.

The center has 778 staffers, about two per patient. But Levitt's audit said that, despite overstaffing in most cases, the programs were short of staff in some others. He also cited a general lack of supervision of personnel.

Auditors said that they went to Sheridan on an unannounced visit and found that 27 of 30 staff therapists were "away from the clients and not producing therapy."

"The 90 clients (that day) were in day rooms watching TV, wandering about the halls, sitting on their beds or sleeping in the early afternoon while the staff was congregated in the nurses' station, performing clerical tasks, knitting or watching TV," said the audit.

The center employs four doctors at a cost of \$180,000 a year, the audit said, but their services are underutilized during their working time, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. To provide medical aid the rest of the time, the center hires outside service at \$52,000 a year.

What city government might do for handicapped

Responsibility for the handicapped usually begins on the county level then moves to the state level and finally moves to the Federal Government. There is seldom, if ever, a special department for the handicapped in city government. One way by which the handicapped could stop being ignored in city affairs is by creation of an office for the disabled as part of the Mayor's office of any city. This could be a guideline for just such an office. In addition to serving as an advocate for the handicapped in insuring compliance with existing laws, the office could provide information, referral, and coordination of services as well as qualified interpreters in communication aids at all public hearings and meetings. Under various headings, here are some of the possible charges of such an office:

EDUCATION

— Every child entering school shall receive vision, perception and hearing tests.

— Mainstreaming — handicapped to be education in the "least restrictive environment consistent with their disability".

— Realistic vocational counseling and career training.

— All public schools barrier free and constructed with provisions for disabled students.

ACCESSIBILITY

— Renovation of existing city property to meet accessibility standards; all future public construction shall be barrier free.

— Creation of additional parking facilities for the handicapped.

— Support federal legislation to provide door-to-door jitney service at the same price as mass transit.

— Private transportation services should be subject to stringent regulations and standardization of fees.

HOUSING

— Encourage multiple listing of homes which meet the needs of the disabled.

— Support modification of building codes for home construction and renovation to enable disabled individuals "to live in the least restrictive environment".

— Vigorously enforce health and safety standards in institutions.

— Encourage transition from institutionalization to community-based care.

— Increase availability of home care service.

EMPLOYMENT

— Support programs that will assist private employers and public agencies to hire the disabled.

— Encourage awarding of city contracts to sheltered workshops.

— Support an immediate thorough examination of all relevant government programs to ascertain whether or not they are benefitting the disabled or providing a financial disincentive.

HEALTH

— Directory of all health care services will be made available.

— Encourage infant disability screening programs in all city hospitals and clinics.

— Expand genetic counseling services.

— Support community based day treatment rehabilitation and residential programs.

"Aversive Therapy"

defined and limited

The use of aversive conditioning at developmental centers in the State of New York is governed by a specific policy formulated by the Division of Mental Retardation. The policy is consonant with the Consent Judgment and has been approved by the Willowbrook Review Panel, according to Thomas A. Coughlin III, Deputy Commissioner for Mental Retardation.

In addition to a series of definitions and a procedural outline, the written document contains a statement of policy regarding the use of aversive conditioning. This policy states that the use of aversive conditioning shall be permitted only when a client's behavior is likely to cause serious physical danger to himself or herself or others, and after positive

reinforcement procedures and all other less drastic alternatives have been explored.

Electric shock shall not be used with the developmentally disabled.

Each Facility Director may designate forms of treatment as hazardous and experimental. To use aversive conditioning or other experimental treatment, approval must be obtained from all of the following:

1. From the client, if he or she is capable of giving informed consent.
2. From the next of kin or guardian if the client cannot give informed consent, and the parent, relative or guardian can give informed consent.
3. From the three person Committee on Aversive Conditioning and Experimental Treatment.

Memories of the Great Balloon Race

by Terri Hynes
& Kathy Baker

What do you get when you add 10,000 undelivered balloons, 8 helium tanks, a huge truck, a dozen volunteers, luxurious accommodations at a developmental center, a week in August, and a whole conglomeration of odds and ends. Give up? Oh — I'll tell you! A great balloon race! What is a balloon race? You don't know what a balloon race is? Well, it is a rather unusual fund-raiser by State YOUTH in more ways than one. The first unusual thing about the fund raiser was that we actually made money on it! Yes, a successful fund-raiser by YOUTH — the first in a very long time. From August 30th through Labor Day, members of YOUTH-ARC attended the New York State Fair in Syracuse. There, we sold helium balloons with tags attached to them. Customers filled out the tags and released the balloons. The balloon tagged the furthest away was awarded \$100. Approximately \$800 was raised through the sale of balloons and Christmas Cards. How do you sell a balloon, you ask? Well, it became very obvious to us almost immediately that each of us had to find our very own style. Some wore suggestive tee-shirts, while others dressed up. Still, others tried the sandwich method of advertising or doing the show on the bleachers and threatening to jump while trying to yell over the din of the crowd and the loud speakers. One member was so desperate that he actually tried out his sex appeal.

Those who attended had some vivid memories their analysts thought they should share with you.



Kathy Baker selling a balloon at the Fair.

First and upmost, in their minds were the luxurious accommodations at Syracuse Developmental Center and the nice security officer. Then, there were the pictures taken with some very important people and the 12-hour days filled with the excitement of selling balloons to very "anxious" customers, even if we did have mosquitos around the booth! Before and after hours, we could be found looking for "inexpensive" restaurants, pushing cars out of muddy fields, driving through crowded mid-ways and then trying to back up, and riding the mid-way rides, which rumor has it, some YOUTH members were trading balloons for rides.

Then let's not forget, chasing the bat out of the booth! Then, there were the people. There were some very nice, "friendly" State Troopers with tags, the barkers in the mid-way and the flower man, the farmers, the cool people and the coronets. By the end of the week the members, well — let's put it this way — If you happen to see a teen-ager walking down the street with a helium balloon, you can bet, he or she is not a YOUTH member that was involved in the great balloon race!

State YOUTH Reports

Things are once again rolling for the 1977-78 year with YOUTH-ARC. Convention '77 was held along side the adult Convention at Grossinger's in the Catskills. The lack of YOUTH response at the Convention made it a disappointment for those who did attend. Only 6 representatives from YOUTH-ARC attended. This included Kathy Baker, YOUTH President; Teresa Hynes, YOUTH Treasurer; Joanne Agresta, YOUTH Western Vice-President; and two delegates from Monroe; 1 from Smithtown; Suzanne Crane, State YOUTH Advisor, and Gerry Sherwood, State Coordinator.



ARC Visitors meet

Seen at New York State Association of Board of Visitors annual meeting at the Turf Inn, Albany, from left to right — Ellen Maroun, Sunmount Dev. Center; Frances Reville, Letchworth Village Dev. Center; Toni Parisi, West Seneca Dev. Center; Ellie Pattison, O.D. Heck Dev. Center; Karin Burgess, Syracuse Dev. Center; Jerry Isaacs, Willowbrook Dev. Center; Mary Andrews, J. N. Adam Dev. Center.

Health Dept. begins campaign

The Public Health Education Unit of the State of New York Department of Health has developed a new campaign on childhood immunization. Materials available in both Spanish and English may be obtained by writing the State of New York Department of Health, Tower Building, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12237.

In addition to pamphlets which include a chart for keeping a child's immunization record, available in both Spanish and English, posters featuring immunization guidelines and notices of immunization clinics can be obtained.

The material warns that children should be immunized early in life. Polio, mumps, measles, diphtheria, pertussis or whooping cough, rubella, and tetanus are likely to strike young children. The consequences are often most severe for children ages one to four. If an epidemic started, it could spread easily among these un-immunized pre-school children.

Parents should check their children's health records to make sure they are fully protected. Un-immunized children should be taken to their doctor or local health department without delay. To remain unprotected is an unnecessary risk no child should face.

It is hoped the material and publicity regarding this new campaign will bring the attention of every community to take the necessary action to insure that immunization of young children is not neglected.

A 9 year old is gravely ill Only you can help!

It was reported, on a recent weekend, that a nine-year old New York State youth is suffering from a death-like disease. A spokesman for the youth has described the disease as apathy. Apathy is a more common name for a lack of feeling or passion. It is said to start in the lower extremities and move upwards. It is sometimes a slow forming disease. However, once it affects an area it is said to spread rapidly and could reach epidemic proportions if not checked. This is a disease that only you, members of the Association, can cure.

If you want to do something concrete to help with this disease in your community, YOUTH is the place to start. Any adults

sufficiently interested to have read this far and who identify with this problem have the potential qualities we need in advisors and co-advisors to youth groups. YOUTH is one of your richest untapped resources. It would be criminal not to utilize it.

If you want to do something really significant for the mentally retarded, for your chapter, for the youth in your community, please contact — Geraldine L. Sherwood, New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc. Room 1000, 175 Fifth Avenue, NYC 10010, tel. 212-674-1520.

By curing this disease, you enrich not only your own lives, but those of your children who are mentally retarded.

Barbara Blum named Commissioner of Social Services

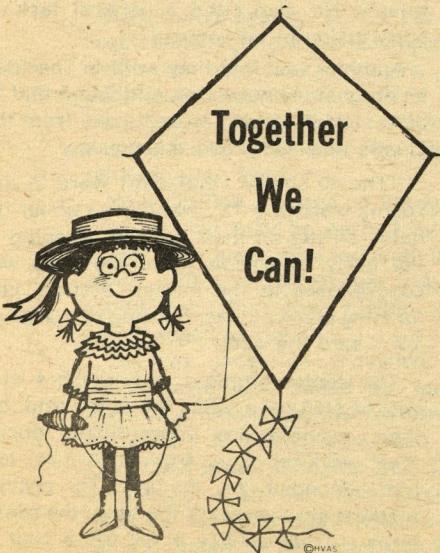
We are very pleased to announce that Governor Hugh Carey has appointed Barbara Blum, Director of the Metropolitan Placement Unit, Department of Mental Hygiene to the post of Commissioner of the Department of Social Services of the State of New York.

Barbara is well known to us as an advocate for the mentally retarded, dating back from the Lindsay administration when she was Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Mental Health of the City of New York, acting for mental retardation.

We believe this is one of the most for-

ward looking steps the Governor has taken in the field of human services where we depend so much on the people who are running the program to interpret the laws.

Congratulations Barbara Blum. You have our best wishes and our sincere offer of cooperation in every way.



Together
We
Can!

©HVAS

Education

Our active committee

By Betty Pendler, Chairperson

In addition to the booth the Education Committee had at the State Convention where members distributed many materials, they also engaged, through individual members, in a number of conferences and symposia.

AND ON TO BUFFALO

Shirley Reynolds was moderator of a panel, "Parents are People" and Betty Pendler told a large group of teachers and administrators about how parents deal with the variety of situations that come up in the school situation. It was a lively and stimulating panel with lots of feedback from the audience. This conference was run by CEC and AAMD of New York State held in Buffalo, and we mingled and met Assemblyman Virgilio, so he knows the New York State ARC Education Committee is alive and "kicking". He promised us the complete cooperation of his subcommittee on special education. We met with many members of the State Education Department and, along with Erie County ARC who participated in many of the panels, this group of professionals learned a lot about parents and about the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

"Special People"

Book Review

"Special People-Abrighter Future for Everyone with Physical, Mental and Emotional Disabilities", by Shirley Cohen — Publishers, Prentice Hall, Inc. Price: \$8.95 hard cover — paperback (Spectrum \$3.95)

This book concentrates on "attitudes" and finally gives the parents their just due when the author says clearly: "The idea of parents helping other parents is so simple that one wonders why it was not put into action years ago, and why it is not spreading more quickly. Undoubtedly, the reluctance of professionals to accept parents as their peers in the helping process accounts for some of this slowness.

It is indeed nice for us parents to see that, finally, professionals have recognized that we do have, indeed, some expertise to offer in the cooperative effort of dealing with our children, and it is hoped that this book will reach many professionals so that they will begin to view the parent in a different light than hitherto.

The author is quite perceptive about the problems of mainstreaming and the problems of raising the consciousness of teachers and principals which is so necessary because, as she says, teachers are members of society and, as such, they reflect the values dominant in that society, which was in order to be valued means to do better than many of one's peers so that we are, by definition degrading most disabled children. Hopefully, with awareness, these values will change, but the author says "unless mainstreaming is accompanied by efforts to sensitize and train teachers, by efforts to deal with fears, superstition and prejudices of children and teachers alike, it will fail. For us parents she gives a very valid caution that one of the dangers of mainstreaming is that administrators may use it to save money, and slip children into regular classes without any special services, which would be the ultimate means of sabotage, which brings us to the familiar "dumping", so that under the new federal

THEN TO THE CONCORD

On the same weekend, ARC was represented at the convention run by New York State Association of Teachers of the Handicapped, at the Concord. Dr. Lyle Lehman, a member of the Education Committee and of our Board of Governors, headed a panel, "Counseling Parents of Handicapped Children — What do you Say?", covering universal questions and problems faced by parents of handicapped children, skills needed by teachers to deal with these questions, and suggestions to teachers for dealing with these problems; while Georgia Sullivan, as a parent member of the panel, told the audience "just like it is", at the same time William Albertin, another member of our committee, participated in a workshop on legislation run by Dr. Robert Guarino, Director, Division of Supervision, Office for Education of Children with Handicapped Conditions, in Albany. He kept the speaker on his toes with lots of comments on the application of the law. The presence of ARC and the parent point of view was well felt in this conference as well.

By Betty Pendler

Education Committee

legislation, we must make sure that special services go along with any mainstreaming efforts in our school districts.

This book, while valuable for all professionals, should be read by parents of persons who are handicapped as well, as it is a real morale booster and gives us further insights into how to combat prevalent points of views in society about the handicapped. Worth reading" — Betty Pendler.

Personal note: Dr. Shirley Cohen was one of the first to start a graduate course at Hunter College, Special Education Division in "Understanding the Parents of the Handicapped" where she had parents address her students, as well as having her students visiting homes of children who were handicapped to get a better insight into the impact of being the parent of a child who is handicapped. Anyone who is so sensitive to the feelings of parents and brings parents into the college classroom would have to write a book that pleases parents! . . . AND SHE DID!

Equal rights for

N.Y.S. disabled

The Human Rights Law grants New York State's disabled citizens protection against discrimination in employment, training programs, housing, public accommodations, and non-sectarian tax-exempt education.

A pamphlet on the rights of the handicapped is written in question and answer form and covers questions ranging from "May an employer refuse to hire you because you are disabled?" to "What happens when you file a complaint with the State Division of Human Rights?"

A copy of the booklet may be obtained from the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Inc. 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 817, Washington, D.C. 20036 or from the New York State Division of Human Rights Regional Office near you.

Order "Your Right to Rights in Education"....today!

"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 we can do more."

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

If you want to know the answers to these and many more questions, they are contained in the booklet developed by our Education Committee, "Your Right to Your Rights in Education". If you have not yet ordered it, do so on this form . . . now!

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

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.
175 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010

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

NAME —————

ADDRESS —————

AFFILIATION —————

Are you interested in

Education Newsletter?

The Education Committee of the New York State Association for Retarded Children is initiating a new service in the form of a periodic newsletter for everyone who wishes to be informed, revitalized, and is cognizant of the fact that they that they are not alone in advocating for an optimal educational program for all people who are retarded.

Some future topics are: Individualized Educational Program (IEP), Legislation,

Adult or Continuing Education, Early Intervention Program, Problems of the Committee on the Handicapped, and many more.

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please sign your correct name, address and telephone number on the tear-off below, and return immediately. Feel free to duplicate this tear-off and sign up any other persons who may wish to receive this valuable newsletter.

I wish to receive the Newsletter of the Education Committee of the N.Y. State Association for Retarded Children.

NAME —————

ADDRESS —————

TEL. NO. —————

CHAPTER AFFILIATION —————

Return to:

Betty Pendler, Chairperson
Education Committee
N.Y. State Association for Retarded Children
175 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10010

Letters

THANK YOU

I thank you for your magazine which I have received for 4 years. I have a sister 70 years old in Wingdale who I am very glad I visited last June.

I am 82 years old and am crippled with arthritis, walk with a quad cane and am a widow.

I am grateful for the work you do and I read the entire magazine.

Thanks again.

Dora G. Foley

Hirsch Lazaar Silverman Ph.D. wrote to the state office with appreciation for receiving Association Reports:

I am appreciative to you for your fine reports on legislation and other matters relative to patient rights especially as they apply to our retarded citizens. Please keep my name on your mailing lists.

Joseph E. Ryan, Executive Director of the Ulster County Chapter, registered a complaint about the coverage of Ulster County in the last issue of OCV. We hope we've made up a little bit for his disappointment this time, and will continue to do so in the future:

I was a little disappointed in the story which was run under the Ulster County news in the last issue of "Our Children's Voice." We have done a few good things here, like opening 5 hostels, a third workshop, and obtaining, for \$1.00, 90 acres of land for a new facility. Would you try to print some of these positives in addition to the negative story which was run in the last issue?

We have corrected the poor building situation in Ellenville. We have just obtained new quarters and the shop has moved in.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter, and I am sure that Ulster County will receive more positive press in the future.

Judy Bridgman, a parent from Rockland County, was proud to identify the picture of her child which appeared in the last issue of OCV. Her letter speaks of the enthusiasm of parents all over the state regarding the infant programs:

On page 6 of the September 1977 issue of Our Children's Voice you printed a picture of a child in the Infant Program whom you could not identify.

That picture is of my daughter, Robyn, and her Speech Therapist, Cathy Eddy. The program is the Rockland County A.H.R.C. in Pamona, New York.

The Infant Program was instituted in April, 1975 and my daughter was fortunate enough to enter the program at 4 weeks old. Now at 2 years old she has made great strides, thanks to the program. The program includes a Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Psychologist, Special Education teacher and numerous aides.

For the parents, there is a social worker and parents groups to help you accept and cope with the problems, especially in the beginning when the going is the toughest. There is also a great deal of parent participation in the program itself teaching the parents and using the knowledge in the home.

I am sure I speak for many parents here in Rockland County when I say I'm eternally grateful to AHRC for being there and caring when we needed it the most.

From Barcelona, Spain to the New York State Association office from Mrs. Montserrat Trias, Vice President of Associacio De Pares De Nens I Adolescents Subnormals Asprias. Her letter included a copy of the organization's bi-monthly magazine.

Thank you so much for receiving me in your office, and for giving me so much interesting information regarding your Association. I hope we will be able to follow your example and achieve at least a few of the goals that you are achieving in your country.

I enclose a copy of our bi-monthly magazine. We are slowly expanding it and are now trying to find some kind person to finance it for us!

If you are ever in Barcelona we very much hope that you will come and visit us.

The father of a retarded child expresses his thanks to the New York State Association for their work on the Organization plan. He also includes a copy of a letter which appeared in Newsday to share with the OCV readers:

Congratulations to you and your staff on the tremendous job you have done on the Reorganization Plan.

I am the father of a retarded child, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Welfare League, but I write to you as an individual only to express my thanks, not only for this happy result but for the progress you are making on many fronts.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter in Newsday which I found interesting — perhaps you will also. It expresses so simply and yet effectively what we all feel:

Carl S. Carey, Jr.

HOSTELS HOUSE NICE PEOPLE

We are 10 people living in the community. We live in a hostel. We feel we deserve the same rights as the neighbors next door. We are just as good as they are and they are just as good as we are. We are human beings like them and we have feelings too.

Hostels are not dangerous. If we were dangerous we wouldn't be in a house like this. We would be in a police station.

Our house is very nice. We have a nice family with two dogs, a cat and two fish. We enjoy doing the same things everybody else does. We go to work every day and we have pride in our home.

You shouldn't be afraid of hostels because there is nothing to be afraid of. We aren't going to bite you. We are nice people, not bad people. We mind our own business and we only want to live like everyone else. We are stared at, teased and made fun of. This isn't right. We don't like it. We want to be good neighbors.

John Parson
Debbie Poole
Pat Barclay
Gerry Hamilton
Mike Frieda
Miller Place

Cathy Nichols
Grace Polyoda
Howard Bloom
Mary Lee Hasbrouck
Emerson Hasbrouck

The Emperor has no clothes

In a letter, Joseph Weingold commented on a statement made by Dr. Edward Zigler of Yale University in his testimony before the Senate and House Appropriations Committee:

Your statement in your testimony before the Senate and House Appropriations Committee reported in the June 1977 issue of Mental Retardation strikes in me a most responsive chord. I refer especially to your statement "At the social policy level the entire field is in the state of flux and disarray. Some years ago, experts convinced decision makers that special education was a solution to the problem of training all the retarded. This view is now suspect and decision makers are committing themselves to such concepts as normalization and deinstitutionalization." I join with other workers in the field who view these concepts as little more than slogans that are badly in need of an empirical data base."

"The great disservice done to the mentally retarded in the last 25 years has been inflicted with the best of intentions, "deinstitutionalization" is better than "institutionalization", "normalization" is a goal to be aimed at for the not "normal". The headlong rush of the lemmings is gaining momentum, without consideration as to where it leads or, indeed, whether they are serving the mentally retarded or only a small fraction of the mentally retarded."

I congratulate you at least for saying, and being able to get it into print, that the emperor has no clothes.

Say A Mouthful!

Our Children's Voice

Retarded Children Can Be Helped

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New York, New York 10010

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