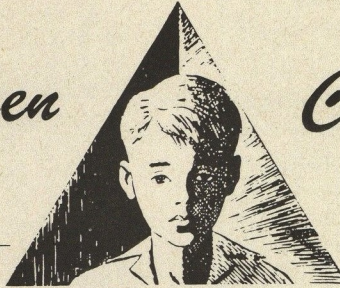


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



VOL. XII — ISSUE No. 1

FEBRUARY, 1960

GOVERNOR PROPOSES AID TO RETARDED

CARLINO HONORED AT DINNER BY AHRC IN NEW YORK

\$80,000 RAISED FOR RETARDED

A dinner, December 8th, in honor of State Assembly Speaker, Joseph F. Carlino of Long Beach, drew a throng to the Hotel Astor in New York City of top political figures from both parties and raised more than \$80,000 for the AHRC in New York City and Nassau County.



Speaker Joseph F. Carlino addressing the guests at his Testimonial Dinner

Carlino was presented with a plaque by the AHRC for his role in securing state assistance for the education and care of retarded children. The presentation was made by former Nassau republican leader, J. Russell Sprague, who was chairman of the dinner. Sprague said that more than 250,000 children will be aided by the money raised at the Hotel Astor attended by 900 persons.

The principal speaker, Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, delivered a stirring address that held the audience spellbound.

Among those who joined Carlino on the dais were Congressman Charles Buckley, Democratic National Committeeman Carmine DeSapio, former Democratic National Chairman, James Farley, State Attorney General, Louis Lefkowitz, Nassau Surrogate John D. Bennett, Nassau Supreme Court Justice, Mario Pittrio, Bernard Meyer, Cortlant A. Johnson, State Harness Racing Commissioner, Robert A. Glasser, Senator Kenneth B. Keating, Public Service Commissioner James A. Lundy, County Executive Patterson and various officials of the AHRC.

In his annual message to the legislature, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller urged the legislature to provide immediately for the implementation and the erection of the research institute for mental retardation "in connection with an existing mental health facility."

The bill for the establishment of a research institute for mental retardation was passed by the legislature in 1958 after introduction by the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, in the Senate by Earl W. Brydges and in the Assembly by Assemblyman Stanley Steingut. Since then, and in the two years before then when money was appropriated for planning, nothing has been done.

The Association is gratified that the Governor has called for the immediate implementation of this plan although a spokesman for the Association stated that the erection of such an institute in connection with an existing mental health facility is not in accordance with the original intent of the act or the opinion of experts throughout this state who urge that this be erected in a metropolitan area, in affiliation with a medical college and other hospitals.

The New York Medical College-Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital has offered to sell the state land at a reasonable cost at 107th Street and Madison Avenue and to work in cooperation with the Department of Mental Hygiene in this program. In addition, the Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital has stated that there would be fifty beds available in the hospital for patients who would be the subject of research whenever the Department of Mental Hygiene wished to utilize them. Dr. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics of Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at New York Medical College, has also stated that it is his intention to involve the other hospitals, clinics and medical colleges in the City of New York in this program. In this way more personnel would be attracted to live in a metropolitan area rather than on the grounds of a state institution about 40 or 50 miles removed from the city and other resources of research.

"Nevertheless", stated President Robert Wagner, "we are highly gratified that the Governor has taken this interest in this problem and hope that there will be action forthcoming. We are sure that the Governor will study the recommendations that we make as to where this institute should be erected and give due considerations to the opinions of the experts throughout the state who are unanimous that it should not be on the grounds of an existing state school for the mentally retarded."

Governor Rockefeller's office also announced that he would recommend conversion of the state veterans' rest camp at Mt. McGregor in Saratoga to a state school for retarded children.

The rest camp has been a frequent target of economy moves during the past several years, but each time the legislature has voted to continue it.

(Continued on page 10)

The State Association acknowledges with thanks permission of the New York Chapter to use the title "Our Children's Voice" for the State paper.

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

19 UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

CHelsea 2-3221

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Organization of Parents and Friends
of Mentally Retarded Children

Chartered by the State of New York
February, 1949

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: ROBERT H. WAGNER

Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

RESEARCH INSTITUTE — BUT WHERE?

(EDITORIAL)

Another most encouraging step by the Governor and most heartwarming to all interested in mental retardation was contained in his message to the legislature where he asked that the Research Institute be implemented as soon as possible. This has been on the books since 1958, as we know, the original legislation having been introduced by Senator Brydges and Assemblyman Steingut as a Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation measure. There is, however, a part of the message which we find disturbing. It is that part which says that the Research Institute shall be set up in connection with an existing mental health facility. This we believe means that the research institute may be erected on the grounds of a state institution.

When the matter was first approached, the Association made a poll of physicians and scientists in New York State asking them for their opinion concerning this matter. The answers were unanimous that in order to attract the best personnel, be close to other facilities of research and hospitals, dramatize this whole venture, it should be located in a metropolitan area where these things exist, not on the grounds of an isolated institution.

The only argument in favor of an institution at this point is economy. With the offer of New York Medical College-Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital to sell adequate land near the hospital to the State of New York and to cooperate on this venture and with the possibility of National Institute of Mental Health funds for building, we feel that this argument of economy no longer is effective.

The offer of Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital has never been answered by the Department of Mental Hygiene. We feel that it would be neglecting the chance of a lifetime not to investigate this possibility and we urge the Governor to look into this before any action is taken with regard to the placing of the research institute.

It will be the first of its kind in the world and we want it to be the best and most dramatic.

A MUCH NEEDED FACILITY

(EDITORIAL)

Elsewhere in this issue you will read of the Governor's decision to change the use of the Mt. McGregor Camp for Veterans to an annex of Rome State School.

The Veterans' organizations, especially the American Legion, have been very good to retarded children through grants to the NARC for research and to local units of NARC throughout the country. Retarded children are an important part of their child welfare committee program. We are sure that if the Mt. McGregor Camp use for veterans is no longer feasible or necessary, that the veterans will be pleased indeed that it will not be used for the housing of retarded children in an area which needs it so much.

There are parents who live on the border of Canada near Lake Champlain who have to travel to Rome, New York, in

(Continued next column)

STATE ASS'N. MOVES OFFICES

At long last, the State AHRC, which has been using the space of the New York City Chapter, has moved to its own offices at 19 Union Square, New York 3, New York, telephone number, CHelsea 2-3221.

With this move in January, Joseph T. Weingold, who has been acting as Executive Director for the New York City Chapter and the State since 1950, will devote his full time to State Association affairs only.

Dr. George Zuckerman, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools of the City of New York has been designated Executive Director of the New York City Chapter.

All are welcome to visit and (we think) beautiful headquarters.

Come up to see us anytime.

MUST THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES BOARD GO?

(EDITORIAL)

In the reorganization plans that the Governor has presented, the demise of the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board is asked.

This body has been responsible for more studies of significance to programs for the mentally retarded in the last five years than has been done in this State in the previous fifty years. To remove such a body which considers the mentally retarded as a whole person cutting across all interdepartmental lines, will, in our considered opinion, be a severe blow to the future of programs for the retarded.

Certainly, the Department of Health has never had any interest in mental retardation and will continue to refuse services even to the physically handicapped where mental retardation is a major factor. It follows, therefore, that all projects, studies, etc., concerning the mentally retarded will once again be in the hands of the Department of Mental Hygiene. We submit that in those areas where the problem cuts across various lines including health, mental hygiene, education, and social welfare, there will be no machinery for doing the best possible job for the mentally retarded.

Too often, have the mentally retarded fallen between the gaps that exist between these departments who refuse to cross each other's lines. How clearly we see this when the Department of Social Welfare refuses to reimburse local welfare departments for the domiciliary care of retarded infants who otherwise would be eligible to receive welfare funds. And the only reason is because they are mentally retarded and this should be a function of mental hygiene who in turn have no funds for domiciliary care outside of the state institutions.

We urge the Governor that this matter be carefully reconsidered and studied from the point of view of a population that numbers 3% of the total population of the State.

It may be strange to hear us speak in favor of studies when frequently we have said that studies are sometimes used as a deterrent to action. The fact remains, nevertheless, that studies may be of value in many instances and must not be curtailed. We point just to the Rochester Project to illustrate the value of the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board for retarded children.

Without the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board we believe this never could have happened.

MT. MCGREGOR (Continued)

order to visit their children. Rome State School is 40% overcrowded. To build the new buildings planned will take years and be very costly. Transfer of Mt. McGregor would mean the saving of years of waiting and according to the Governor hundreds of thousands of dollars in construction.

But even more important than that, parents would be given an opportunity to come closer to their dear ones from whom they must be separated by circumstances over which they have no control.

If this has to be, we are glad the Governor has thought of the retarded

STATE CONVENTION DEMANDS TOTAL PROGRAM FOR RETARDED

ROBERT H. WAGNER ELECTED STATE PRESIDENT

Mandatory Classes For "Trainable" Children Highlights Legislative Program

Over 100 delegates and more than 200 visitors and friends from 33 county and state school chapters of the Association participated in the Annual Convention at Spring Valley, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 6, 7 and 8. A series of workshops which included Education, Administration of chapters, and the Community Mental Health Act provisions as applicable to the mentally retarded, preceded the Convention meeting of delegates.



Robert Wagner greeting delegates and guests after taking office.

The panels consisted of the following: *Education*, Chairman, James D. Maroon, Rockland, Charles E. Becker, State Department of Education, Dr. Merrill L. Colton, Superintendent of Schools, Ramapo Central School District #2, Spring Valley, Vern Madden, Onondaga County Chapter, Allan Romanella, Supervisor of Special Classes, Board of Cooperative Educational Services, District 2, Suffolk County; *Community Mental Health Services Act*, Chairman: Hy Forstenzer, Director, Community Mental Health Services, Walter Krudop, Suffolk County Chapter and Dr. Kenneth Gang, Westchester County; *Administration*, Chairman, Helen Kaplan, Nassau County, Ruth Gross, Nassau County, Helene Rothschild, Monroe County and Sidney Van Deusen, Upper Hudson.

Another panel discussion in which the whole audience participated Friday evening, was "What the Institutions Should be Doing for the Retarded and the Responsibility of Mental Hygiene To Develop Community Program". The moderator was Richard Hungerford, Superintendent of Laconia State School, Laconia, New Hampshire, Dr. Ignacy Goldberg, Teachers College, Columbia University, Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, New York State, Bernard Rosenberg, member of the Board of Visitors, Letchworth Village, Westchester Chapter, and Dr. Chris J. DeProspero, Professor of Special Education, City College.

The meeting of the delegates on Saturday and Sunday, resulted in a series of sweeping resolutions and the adoption of a legislative program which, if implemented, would mean total services for all the mentally retarded in the State. Resolutions included the following:

RESOLVED, that information on PKU testing be disseminated by the State AHRC to all County Health Departments, to the Heads of all County Medical Societies, and to local physicians throughout the State.

RESOLVED, that whereas the United States Children's Bureau has recognized the effectiveness of the dietary treatment of Phenylketonuria for the prevention of mental retardation due to the condition, and has provided funds to all State Departments of Health for this purpose, we hereby resolve that the New York State AHRC petition the New York State Department of Health to make these funds available for payment of this diet without further delay.

(Continued on page 11)

MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAM BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

Bills Introduced By Joint Legislative Committee And At Request of AHRC

Once more, a series of bills have been introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee as part of its program for developing services for the mentally retarded. These include bills to amend the Children's Court Act to give judges the same power for services for the mentally retarded as they now have for the physically handicapped, to amend the Domestic Relations Court Act in New York City for the same purpose and the Education Law to conform to these. This series of bills have been introduced by Senator Brydges and Assemblyman Steingut.

In addition, bills have been introduced once more to permit the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene to authorize admission of a child under 5 to a private institution, if overcrowding exists in the state institutions, and to pay for this care. This calls for an appropriation of \$100,000; a bill to provide for the reimbursement by community mental health boards for expenditures for day care centers for children with mental illness or deficiency, epilepsy or behavior or emotional disorder who are under 7 and not legally enrolled in any public school. The purpose of this bill is to provide the beginning of a pre-school program for children who cannot get into schools because of age factors. It is not intended as a substitute for schooling.

High on the list of bills and with top priority is the bill to make mandatory the present permissive provisions of the Education Law for establishment of special classes for children with IQ's under 50. This is once more being introduced by Senator Brydges and Assemblyman Steingut and a public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2 in the Senate.

In addition, the AHRC program has been introduced in a series of 8 bills. They are as follows: To amend the Education Law to give the children sent to institutions the same right to education in the institution as they would have in the community; to provide a differential of pay or bonus for all teachers of handicapped children in the sum of \$480; to provide that each Board of Visitors of a state school shall have a parent of a retarded child as a member; to add the words "training and education" to the duties of the Department of Mental Hygiene in state schools for the mentally retarded; to amend the Mental Hygiene Law with regard to qualifications of directors of state schools so as to permit the Commissioner to choose an educator as well as a physician; to amend the Mental Hygiene Law to eliminate fees in state institutions; to amend the State Insurance Law to permit group insurance for organizations of "common interest, calling or profession", in addition to employees in order to make such group insurance available to parents of handicapped children; and to amend the Mental Hygiene Law to provide that where one parent petitions for the commitment of a child to a state school for the mentally retarded notice must be given to the other parent.

In addition, an analysis of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act has been made for the purpose of studying the possibility of an amendment to provide for grants in aid to voluntary organizations to carry on sheltered workshops on a continuing basis with some state subsidy.

The program is now before the legislature. We shall see what our efforts to educate the community have effected.

ALL ARE URGED TO WRITE YOUR ASSEMBLYMAN, SENATOR AND THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT THE BILL FOR MANDATORY CLASSES FOR CHILDREN WITH I.Q.'S UNDER 50.

SENATE INTRODUCTORY #1483, BRYDGES.

ASSEMBLY INTRODUCTORY #1971, STEINGUT.

DO IT NOW!

SERVICES, NOT INSTITUTIONS URGED FOR NEW YORK RETARDED

New community services for the mentally retarded, instead of new institutions, are urged in the study, "The Mentally Retarded in 1959" undertaken by the New York State Association for Mental Health by Dr. Stanley P. Davies.

Noting that the number of mentally retarded in the nation is estimated at more than five million, far exceeding all other handicapped groups, Davies points out that only nine full fledged mental retardation clinics are operating in New York State.

"In view of the critical importance of early diagnosis," Davies says, "this number of clinics is woefully inadequate."

The study also calls for stepped up voluntary and government medical research programs. It adds that appropriations for the New York State Research Institute for Mental Retardation, authorized by the legislature in 1958 should be available as soon as possible.

At the beginning of this year, New York's six state schools for the mentally retarded had overcrowding of 34%. The study recognizes that additional construction is urgently needed, but in the long view, favors holding institutionalizing to a minimum.

The study also considers retardation at various age levels—pre-school and school years and post-school, and stresses the need for special classes, more realistic vocational training, expanded employment and placement services and additional sheltered workshops.

Dr. Davies was general director of the Community Services Society until his retirement in 1957. He was the first president of the New York State Association for Mental Health and is the author of the standard work, "The Mentally Retarded in Society".

The AHRC, on a state and local level, throughout the state cooperated with Dr. Davies in making this survey.

Retardation Reprints Sent To 26,000 N.Y.S. Physicians

Reprints of an article by Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director and Professor of Pediatrics and John B. Scanlon, Chief Psychiatrist, Mental Retardation Clinic, New York Medical College-Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, New York City, from the May 1959 Journal of Mental Deficiency, were sent out by the Office of Mental Retardation of the Department of Mental Hygiene to the more than 26,000 New York State general practitioners.

The article deals with the effect of early institutionalization upon the retarded child and his family and points out that the large number of retarded children can be maintained at home. It urges that counseling of the parent should focus on what it does for the child, the parents and the community in the long run, rather than on short term expediency.

It is hoped that the article will provide information which will assist the general practitioner in making recommendations to the family of a young retarded child.

Instruction Manual For Communion of Retarded

An "Instruction Manual for First Communion of God's Holy Innocents", has been written by our friend and fellow member, Rev. Thomas E. Skinner of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, New Hartford, New York. It has been published by the Confraternity of the Holy Innocents in New Hartford, New York, of which Dorothy C. Bingel, Oneida Herkimer Chapter is President and Rev. Skinner, Director. The booklet is divided into eight sections. The first is notes to instructor concerning class-work and homework, and the others include such headings as "Introduction to God's Home", "Introduction to the Holy Family", "The First Sin", "Confession" and others.

The book is important because of its hopeful approach to the mentally retarded. Its philosophy is expressed in the first sentence of the introduction written by Father Skinner, "no creation was fashioned by the hand of God uselessly."

8 L.I. RETARDED YOUTHS EYE DIPLOMAS, JOBS

For the first time in the history of Long Island education, and perhaps New York State, 8 mentally retarded youths will participate in commencement exercise in Massapequa, Long Island.

Along with other graduates of district 23 they will receive diplomas—in their case "occupational-educational" sheepskins—indicating completion of a pilot two year work study course. Probably, among all the graduating students, the retardates will be best equipped immediately to earn a living.

This is a tribute to Dr. Howard R. Kent, Coordinator of Special Education to the State Education Department's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and to the wholehearted cooperation of area businessmen.

Essentially, the program which was begun September 1958 enables mentally retarded youths between the ages of 16 and 18 to combine academic learning with on-the-job training. The results, according to Kent, have been highly gratifying and resulted in the development of similar programs in other schools.

Of the 8 youths, 2 are employed by a furniture refinishing firm, 2 by a variety store, 1 is an iron worker, another a knife company packer, another is learning to reupholster furniture and 1 is working for an auto agency. While on the job, the students receive \$1 an hour part of which is paid by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Kent said that in some cases the \$15 a week has been regarded as an important contribution at home and, in any event, the youths have gained a feeling of accomplishment.

Parents of the retardates have been among the most enthusiastic supporters of the program. "They find that their children have taken a much greater interest in their homes and families," said Dr. Kent, "that they show a real vitality for living. They have told me 'it's unbelievable—my boy has become a man'."

\$11,500 FOUNDATION GRANT TO ONONDAGA CHAPTER SCHOOL

The Rosamond Gifford Charitable Corporation, a Syracuse foundation, has announced a grant of \$11,500 to the Onondaga County Chapter of the Association to assure the continuation until June, 1960 of the AHRC-McCarthy School. The announcement of the grant was made to Marvin W. Paxson, President of the Chapter, by Mrs. John H. Lynch, Jr., Trustee and Assistant Treasure of the Gifford Foundation.

The AHRC-McCarthy School, with a registration of 30 trainable children, has its classes at Gere School, a public school building, the use of which has been offered to the chapter by Mayor Henninger, after the Syracuse Board of Education had turned down the chapter request that they operate classes for children with IQ's under 50 under the permissive legislation.

The County Board of Cooperative Educational Services took over the school operated by the AHRC in September 1959 to conduct a program for Onondaga County retarded children with the use of tax funds, but children from Syracuse were not eligible for enrollment in this program.

The Gifford Foundation grant will assist in providing essential personnel, including teachers, an administrator, social worker and custodian, as well as funds for necessary insurance coverage, classroom supplies and special equipment. It is estimated that training for 50 trainable children who live in Syracuse will be provided through this grant and AHRC funds.

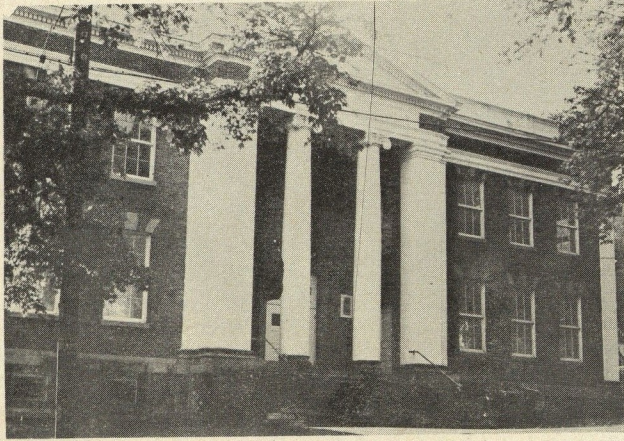
"We are still anticipating," stated President Paxson, "that the state legislature will approve legislation to compel local school districts such as the City of Syracuse to conduct classes for these children under public education auspices and that the Governor this year will sign such legislation."

The Chapter must provide about \$12,000 the balance of the budget.

Westchester Chapter Purchases Building For New Home

The Westchester Chapter of the Association has moved in to its new headquarters, the former Hillside Avenue School at 3 Hillside Avenue, White Plains, New York.

The three-story building was recently occupied by the Institute for Physical Fitness. It will house the sheltered workshop of the Chapter and the offices.



THE NEW WESTCHESTER HOME

In the two and one-half years since moving to White Plains, the Chapter has tripled the number of clients in the workshop and has a waiting list. More than 60 are now in training who come from all parts of the county. The New York State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is using the facilities to train many retarded young adults in the area.

In the new headquarters, training will include the operation of a cafeteria, bench work, a mailing room for large mailing orders and a variety of other subcontracts.

"We are delighted with our new home," said Mark Feer, Chapter President, "which will give us the room we need for expansion of services for the mentally retarded of Westchester. It is gratifying, indeed, that we have outgrown our old quarters and are able to expand in this manner."

\$8,500,000 EXPANSION AT WILLOWBROOK NEARS END

Within a short time, Willowbrook State School will be able to stamp its \$8,500,000 expansion program completed, officials have said.

The opening of the remaining buildings under construction is expected to bring the total of patients to approximately 5,700. There are now 5,200 patients there. The vast project for which an initial sum of \$5,000,000 was appropriated in 1952 included five large infirmary buildings and a new kitchen and cafeteria.

In addition, an appropriation of \$740,000 has been made for a new addition to the institution's laundry plant, made necessary by the huge increase in population.

The four last buildings represent the most modern of their type in existence and are primarily for the care of younger children. They were constructed after several years of studies by state architects working with specifications laid down by psychiatrists and others who specialize in the care of the mentally retarded.

In spite of this important construction, waiting lists are still developing for admission of children to Willowbrook and other institutions. This is a problem with which the Department of Mental Hygiene is now wrestling.

Commenting on this situation, President Robert Wagner of the AHRC said, "It is hoped that Governor Rockefeller will speed the development of community facilities, such as special classes for trainable children, in order to keep many of these at home rather than crowd the institutions."

ORDER OF UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS OF AMERICA AIDS RETARDED

The Order of United Commercial Travelers of America has undertaken an international project to assist the retarded children's programs both in the United States and Canada. Their official publication, "The Sample Case", carries a story about this in their September issue. As you read elsewhere in this issue of "Our Children's Voice", local chapters of the United Commercial Travelers are beginning to help the AHRC in their communities.

In Kingston, New York, for example, the local chapter of UCT has membership of approximately 400 which was recently addressed by Dorothy Beuhring. She was there presented with a check for \$25 for the Chapter and was assured that they were about to launch a project whereby the Chapter would benefit to the extent of \$2,000. Since then, the Women's Planning Committee of UCT has over \$2,000 books of chance printed and distributed to their members to raise funds for the local chapter of AHRC to expand services for retarded children.

Dorothy Buehring writes, "They are so interested and enthusiastic that I hope that it will be the boost that we need to bestir some of our good members."

All chapters are urged to get in touch with the local unit of United Commercial Travelers.

CULTURED PEARL ASSOCIATION SPONSORS PARTY FOR N.Y.C. CHAPTER



Left to right: Mrs. Arthur Boyer Schoen, Mrs. Hudson Faussett, Mrs. Frederick P. Pittera and Mrs. Arthur MacPherson, showing pearls of many sizes, lent by the Cultured Pearl Association of America, who are sponsoring event at Plaza Hotel in February.

Congressman Wainwright Heads Suffolk County AHRC Drive

U.S. Representative Stuyvesant Wainwright led the Suffolk County fund drive as chairman of National Retarded Children's Week in November.

Representative Wainwright, in accepting the chairmanship, said, "Of all our many worthy projects on Long Island, it is my firm belief that the Suffolk Chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, Inc., is one that deserves the support of every adult. While it is encouraging to note the progress that has been made in this field in recent years, there is much more that all of us can do to assure that our retarded children receive the best that this country can offer in guidance, treatment and training so that they can become well adjusted and useful citizens."

Representative Wainwright is a member of the Subcommittee on Education and Rehabilitation that has been holding meetings and hearings around the country, for the purposes of enacting legislation in this coming session of the legislature to help the mentally retarded programs.

Chapter News

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER reports that TV personalities led by Sonny Fox, star of "Let's Take a Trip", and other shows, launched their fund drive with a benefit childrens performance in Middletown . . . ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER publication, "Focus", is rapidly developing into one of the best chapter newsletters in the State . . . If you are not receiving it, write to Erie County Chapter to put you on their mailing list 253 Humholdt Pkwy., Buffalo, N. Y. . . . ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER, as you have read elsewhere, is busy operating the Gere School . . . SCHENECTADY reports that 13 children are having fun learning the Stroll in dancing class . . . NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER was beneficiary of the proceeds of sports car rally by the Queens Sports Car Club, Inc., in January . . . ONEIDA-HERKIMER held open house at workshop to familiarize the public with community services given by the workshop . . . training aids were displayed and overall program presented by J. Roger VanDenbergh, Workshop Director . . . ULSTER COUNTY really busy what with Bowlatorium (what's that?), interesting programs for membership, fund drive, etc. Mrs. Clyde Snell, now office secretary and available for counseling on problems dealing with mental retardation . . . SUFFOLK COUNTY reports progress on their new clinic, which will receive Community Mental Health fund aid from the county and the fund drive with a goal of \$60,000 . . . U.S. Congressman Stuyvesant Wainwright is County Chairman of the drive . . . The Chapter newsletter of December lists the dental care available for retarded children in Suffolk County . . . The Suffolk County Dental Society has provided a list of dentists who have indicated that they are prepared to treat mentally retarded children . . . Gene Lunken, president, NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER is still "bomb storming" Board of Education to obtain transportation for AHRC . . . Suggest he include in his bomb storming classes for retarded children in public school now being operated by AHRC . . . BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER extremely active in helping to get New York State Grange to pass resolution in favor of mandatory classes for children with IQ's under 50 . . . Grange supported Governor's veto last year . . . Fowler Wilson, Executive Director of the Chapter, attended National Vocational Rehabilitation Convention in Boston . . . We are getting around . . . Dr. Frank Henne, Director, Newark State School, was speaker at November meeting of CHEMUNG COUNTY CHAPTER . . . The fund drive fell some short of the goal . . . but there is still hope . . . The Postmen were most helpful in the house-to-house canvas . . . Chemung is probably busy preparing for, not the 1960, but the 1961 State Convention . . . CHAUTAUQUA reports that Ladies Auxiliary of the United Commercial Travelers has donated \$100 to the chapter for work with retarded children . . . Same report of help from United Commercial Travelers from ULSTER AND CHEMUNG Counties . . . MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER has moved its offices as well as workshop to 125 College Avenue, Rochester 7, New York, formerly premises of Bell Aircraft . . . Great goings-on taking place there with the development of the project . . . Our own Father Skinner addressed the chapter on "Religious Education for the Retarded Child" in December . . . BENEVOLENT SOCIETY-WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER reports dedication ceremony for a printing press, heart machine and ferris wheel, all donated by the Chapter to the Willowbrook State School. Also reports its most successful luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria with Sam Gook Diggs, Vice President, CBS Films, presiding as Toastmaster and Bill Leonard, star of WCBS-TV program, "Eye on New York", pinch-hitting as appeals speaker . . . The famous Willowbrook Boys Band and Girls Singing Group entertained . . .

(Note from the Editor: We need much more news, pictures, human interest stories, descriptions of program development, etc., from all chapters. This is your newspaper and through it you can tell what you are doing).

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT WAGNER

The following committees have been appointed by President Wagner:

Budget and Finance: Chairman, Evald Gasstrom, (Westchester), 510 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, New York; Ruth Gross, Nassau; Vernon Madden, Onondaga; Max W. Schachter, New York City; Cyril Weinberg, New York City.

Chapter Development: Chairman: Helen Kaplan, Nassau, 99 President Street, Hempstead, New York; Buraige Stiles, Schenectady; Evald Gasstrom, Westchester; Joseph Stuckart, Broome.

Education: Chairman, James Maroon, Rockland, 16 Lake Drive, New York City, New York; Deborah C. Cherey, Putnam; Ignacy Goldberg, New York City; George Greene, New York City; Chris DeProspro, New York City; Louis E. Rosenweig, New York City; Horace Mann, Buffalo; Phoebe Lazarus, Nassau; Paul Hermon, Fulton.

Institutions: Chairman, Leo Fixler, Community League, (Wassaic), 165 Broadway, New York City, New York; John M. Scheeler, Newark State School; Joseph Abissi, Rome State School; William Heisler, Willowbrook; Bernard Rosenberg, member of Board Visitors, Letchworth; Mary D. McCarthy, member of Board of Visitors, Syracuse State School; Thomas Lotz, Rome State School; George G. Hirsch, New York City; Harry Binsky, Craig Colony.

Insurance: Chairman, Julian Banner, New York City, 246 West End Avenue, New York City, New York; Richard Frigollette, Schenectady.

Legal and Legislative: Chairman, Bernard M. Fineson, New York City, 270 Broadway, New York City, New York; Joseph Tholl, Capital District, Chairman, Subcommittee to Mobilize Chapter Support for Legislative Program; Augustus M. Jacobs, New York City, Chairman, Subcommittee on Guardianship, Sherwood S. Cadwell, Chautauqua; John Angerosa, Schenectady; David Groberg, Welfare League, Letchworth; John J. McCarthy, Onondaga; Helen Kaplan, Nassau; Max W. Schachter, New York City; Arnold Raynor, New York City, Liaison with Chapter Development Committee to Revise Chapter Manual.

Publicity and Public Relations: Chairman, Anne Gitter, New York City, 51 Argyle Road, Brooklyn, New York.

Scholarships and Awards: Chairman, George G. Hirsch, New York City, 245-06 62nd Avenue, Douglaston, New York; August Bischoff, Suffolk; Henry Cox, Orange.

Warren and Washington County Teachers

A workshop training session of the teachers of mentally retarded children in the Warren and Washington Counties held in October was addressed by Salvatore Tavormina, representative of the Bureau of Handicapped Children, State Department of Education. Mr. Tavormina stressed the importance of building a curriculum that is typical for the community where the classes is taught.

He revealed that some programs for mentally retarded youngsters have been in progress in the two counties for about five years, while others are just entering this field of specialized teaching. The particular problem confronting the teachers in the schools is the fact they are treading almost virgin territory with no text books or past experiences to aid them. Thus, many instructors literally "play it by ear" as they meet each student's particular needs.

Praising the teachers for the accomplishments they have achieved in this relatively infant field of instruction, Mr. Tavormina warned that to date only about "one-half of those who should be served are actually being instructed in these communities."

SEEN AT THE CARLINO DINNER



Hon. J. Russell Sprague admiring the plaque. To his left Martin Tannenbaum and Speaker Carlino.



Senator Earl W. Brydges, Speaker Carlino and J. Russell Sprague



Marty Tannenbaum in huddle with J. Russell Sprague, Hon. Charles Buckley talking to Atty. General Louis Lefkowitz. In rear, Hon. Stanley Steingut, Vice Chairman of Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation.



Left to right: Hon. Robert A. Glasser, Harness Racing Commissioner, U. S. Senator Kenneth B. Keating, Hon. James Farley, Speaker Joseph F. Carlino, Hon. Carmine DeSapio, Martin Tannenbaum, Toastmaster, and Atty. General Louis Lefkowitz.

SEEN AT THE CONVENTION



Outgoing President Bernie Fineson greets income President Bob Wagner.



Elizabeth Boggs, President, NARC beaming approval.



Helene Rothschild, Rochester, Winnie Wagner, Belle and Gus Jacobs in conversation—pleasant, too.

GOVERNOR CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF FARMS AT STATE INSTITUTIONS

It seems to be the intention of Governor Rockefeller to eliminate the farms at nine state institutions in the Department of Mental Hygiene. Two of these are at Letchworth Village and Wassaic which have had farm programs for the mentally retarded since their inception.

The move is part of economy measure since it is claimed that these farms are operating at a loss.

A spokesman for the Department of Mental Hygiene has stated that the request has been made that some part of the farms be retained for training purposes. A letter to Dr. Ronan, Secretary of the Governor, asking whether it is the intention of the administration to retain any part of the farms for training has brought no response.

The farm employees of Letchworth Village have formed a committee under the chairmanship of Francis E. Hall to combat this move. It is their contention that these farms have not been a losing proposition and that if a careful study were made it would be found that they could be put on a continuing paying basis. In addition, they cite the fact that states such as Pennsylvania and New Jersey who had abandoned their farming practices in the past now deem it advisable to reestablish the farms at a terrific cost. They also cite that Texas is establishing a great number in institutions that have never had any.

It is the Committee's opinion that this is a false economy and that it will throw many people out of work.

The Committee urges further study of this and cites a few examples of why they think so.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RESISTS SEGREGATION OF RETARDED

The regulations of the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene clearly state "special classes for elementary school pupils shall be located in elementary school buildings where there are classes of regular grade children of similar ages". There is a similar provision for special classes for secondary school age pupils.

In a recent memorandum the Department questioned our Executive Director as to his opinion concerning the protest from two or three areas who are utilizing separate building facilities and who wish to continue a segregated program for the educable mentally retarded. In answer to the query from the State Department of Education, the following, in part, was written. "My experience and observations lead me to believe the best interests of the educable retarded are served by putting their classes in elementary and secondary school buildings where there are classes for normal children as well. It is difficult for me to see why such classes should be segregated when there is no thought given to segregating classes for children with other handicaps than mental retardation. If our curriculum is so designed as to eventually make these retarded pupils good citizens, integrate them into the community, and make them part of the world in which they live, I think that this is not being accomplished by a policy of segregation during their school years.

"If we are to get society to accept the mentally retarded as part of the world in which all of us live, we must expose society to these children, their problems and their potentials from as early an age as possible. How are we conditioning the normal child to live with his brothers of all kinds if we insulate him against children with handicaps?

"I cannot see any acceptable reason for school districts to want to segregate the educable mentally retarded, except that of convenience. I am fully aware of the problems of school space, etc., but these problems must be solved in toto for all the children eligible for school in the same manner."

WEST SENECA CONSTRUCTION DELAY BRINGS PROTEST GOVERNOR REASSURES ASSOCIATION

The delay in construction of West Seneca School brought vigorous protests from Paul J. Edwards, Executive Director of the Erie County Chapter, and the Council of Social Agencies in Buffalo. The authorization for West Seneca was given in 1953. Five years later not a single child has yet been admitted and buildings for these children are not yet completed.

In answer to protests that Paul Edwards wrote to the Governor, the Governor's secretary, William J. Ronan, answered, "Let me assure you that funds are available and the State wishes to progress this work as quickly as possible. The length of time required has been caused by the technical problems involved in acquiring the site and in designing and construction of the institution. Since this is the first totally new institution for mentally retarded children which has been constructed in New York State in 20 years, we have had to face new problems in its design and construction.

"A formal advertisement to prospective bidders was issued on October 15th, for eight Infirmary Buildings with kitchens and two administrative section units with necessary connecting corridors. This group has a capacity of 1,040 patients and is expected to be ready for occupancy early in 1963."

STATE REORGANIZATION PLAN ELIMINATES INTERDEPARTMENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES BOARD

One of the recommendations made in the study for the reorganization of the executive branch of the government by a committee headed by Dr. William J. Ronan, Secretary to the Governor, was the elimination of the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board. The recommendation is to retain the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board as an Advisory Committee to the Department of Health which would assume all the duties of the Board except for matters which fall within the jurisdiction of other departments.

This, in effect, would mean that all matters dealing with mental retardation, whether they cut across one or more departmental lines would be relegated to the department of Mental Hygiene. This is clearly so since the Department of Health has never assumed any responsibility for handicapped youngsters where mental retardation has been a complicating or major factor. The Interdepartmental Health Resources Board is a successor to the old Mental Health Commission and has carried on many studies in the field of mental retardation, resulting in a clearer understanding of the problems of the retarded and their needs. In addition, the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board was extremely instrumental and the moving force for the Rochester Demonstration Project. This, apparently, will now be shifted to the Department of Mental Hygiene or perhaps eliminated altogether in the government's drive towards economy.

At the office of the Association, Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold stated, "If there is no Interdepartmental Health Resources Board dealing with the problems of the mentally retarded, then something similar to it will have to be created if we are to get the best services for the retarded. It has been stated over and over again by professionals in the field and departments of government that mental retardation cuts across many lines and that unless there is some coordinating or even study agency to see to it that the different foci of the departments are brought together to concentrate on the retarded then many services that otherwise would have been started will fall by the wayside."

The Association urges that very careful study be given to this elimination of the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board. And if it is eliminated, that some other coordinating agency, whether it be interdepartmental or on a voluntary basis, be created to prevent the mentally retarded from falling between the various departments when it is uncertain who shall assume the program.

SENATOR BRYDGES NOTES DECADE IN CHANGING WORLD FOR RETARDED

SOUTH EAST N.Y. SPECIAL ED. TEACHERS ASSN. MEETING IN KINGSTON

The "vast" contribution made during the past ten years to educable and trainable children in the state was noted by Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation at a meeting of the Special Education Teachers Association of Southeastern New York in Kingston, New York.

He credited the AHRC, the parents of children needing special classes, and the teachers of these classes as being "the great forces" that have made that contribution for a changing world for the retarded.

Speaking at the Wiltwyck Country Club to about 100 men and women at a dinner marking the tenth anniversary of the Association, the Senator paid special tribute to Dorothy W. Buehring of Kingston, the Association's president and former President of the Ulster County Chapter of the AHRC. He paid like tribute to Charles D. Becker of the Division of Handicapped Children, State Department of Education and to Dr. George Jervis, Director of Laboratories, Letchworth Village, both of whom were on the program with him. Dr. Jervis, reviewing ten years of growing understanding of the problems of retarded persons said that a meeting such as the one he was addressing would not have been possible ten years ago.

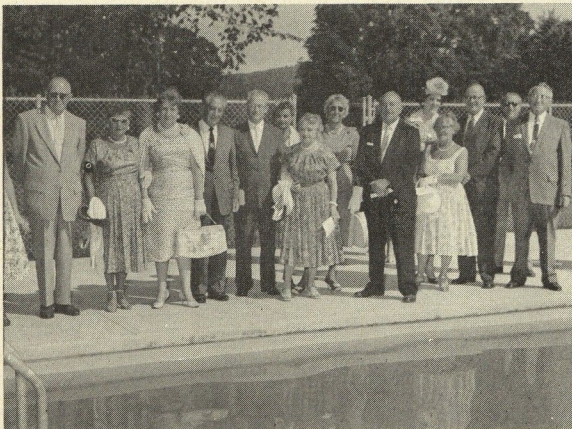
Senator Brydges stated that his committee wanted to prevent trainable and educable children from being sent to institutions, if at all possible. He said that the road block of lack of funds has all but disappeared now that the cost of educating a pupil in a special class is no more to a local school district than that of educating a pupil in a regular class.

Even so, he said, there is need for mandated special classes because permissive legislation has not filled the need. While the Senator had the greatest respect for Commissioner of Education, James E. Allen, Jr., he disagreed with him that permissive legislation had fulfilled its task. He emphasized that the public schools are a public agency and that the State should call on the schools for special classes because that is the school's responsibility.

Dr. Frances P. Connor, of Columbia University was a speaker at the Founders Luncheon held in the George Washington School.

The meeting ended with the adoption of a resolution calling for mandatory legislation for special classes for children with IQ's under 50.

Dedication Swimming Pool and Community League Park at Wassaic State School



Included in group are Comm. Hoch, Helen Altman, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Fixler and other officers of the Community League—Wassaic Chapter, AHRC.

APPELLATE DIVISION ORDERS SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR RETARDED 17 TO 21

Readers of "Our Children's Voice", will recall that the Supreme Court ruled, in the case of Elgin against the Board of Education of the City of New York, that the City has discretion as to whether or not a mentally retarded youngster may continue in classes after the age of 17 in spite of the amendment to the Education Law making it mandatory to set up such classes from the ages of 5 to 21. This decision was reached on the theory that the local Board of Education must retain discretionary powers as to whether a youngster may profit or not. An appeal was taken from this decision and the New York State AHRC received permission to join as a friend of the court. It filed a brief in this action.

On this appeal the Appellate Division affirmed the decision of the lower court, but in doing so, stated that the Board of Education of New York City had not complied with the statute although it retained its discretionary powers.

The decision follows: "Order unanimously affirmed on the facts and on the law in the exercise of discretion, without cost. While, up to the present time, there may not have been full compliance by the Board of Education with the statutory scheme, the record does indicate that a start has been made in that direction. On the argument of the appeal, moreover, counsel assured the court that the Board was continuing its efforts looking to the establishment of special classes for mentally retarded children in the specified age group, if at all feasible. While recognizing the manifold difficulties with which it is confronted, we assume, nevertheless, that the Board of Education will continue its efforts to comply with the statute with all due diligence under the circumstances, subject, of course, to the Board's discretionary powers thereunder. This determination is made, without prejudice to a new application, if it should later appear that the respondents have failed to fulfill the legislative provisions with all reasonable speed."

In effect, therefore, the Board of Education of the City of New York is ordered, "with all reasonable speed" to set up classes for children with IQ's between 50 and 75 between the ages of 17 and 21, and if they do not do so, the plaintiff in the case may return to the Appellate Division for further relief. The discretionary power of the Board of Education to determine whether a youngster may profit or not if there are such classes is affirmed by the Appellate Division.

1960 Census Planned To Gather Data On Malformations At Birth

A national tabulation of malformations at birth will be started in 1960 by the National Office of Vital Statistics.

Joseph Schachter, Chief of the Natality Analysis Section, confirmed that the move resulted largely from the wide interest in the hereditary effect of radioactivity. Mr. Schachter said that inquiries concerning this, together with the popular and scientific interests shown in this and other phases of genetics, had resulted in the opening of the new area in national vital statistics reporting.

He said that the continuing tabulation will start in 1960 with a simple tally of the congenital malformations reported by the more than 40 states that carry a question on that subject on the birth certificate.

The aim is to refine and broaden the reporting until the statistics could become of great value in answering many of the questions puzzling geneticists, including the actual effects of radiation on future generations. Mr. Schachter served as one of a small group of statistical consultants to the five year study of 40,000 pregnant women being made through 16 teaching hospitals by a staff at the National Institute of Health. This study is primarily to find the cause of cerebral palsy, mental retardation and other birth injuries.

WEINGOLD TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION

Our Executive Director was one of the principal witnesses at the hearing of the Subcommittee on Special Education of the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor in New York on October 29th, 1959.

He addressed himself principally to two aspects of the question, the continued support of sheltered workshops, which is now limited in point of time, and the "Independent Living Bill". He stated that the many projects throughout the country now being supported by federal grants are in grave danger of being curtailed or even folding unless some way is found to help the voluntary agencies bear the deficit cost that these projects must necessarily involve. He further expressed support for the "independent living" bill, H.R. 3465.

He stated, "This bill is the second great advance in the field of rehabilitation of the handicapped. The first . . . was Public Law 565 and its predecessors. Here at last we are coming to grips with the whole question of the severely handicapped for whom vocational goals are not possible to obtain and unrealistic to set. This bill, if enacted, and properly implemented, will result in keeping in the community on an independent level many many thousands who otherwise would be institutionalized or require special expensive attention usually borne by the state."

Several hundred persons attended the hearing in the New York area. The Hon. Graham Barden, M.C. Chairman of the full Committee on Education and Labor, participated in the proceedings both on October 28 and 29 and expressed great interest and pleasure at the cooperative efforts being made by professional groups in preparing organized material for congressional consideration in the various areas of exceptionality and rehabilitation.

Dr. Merle E. Framptom is Director of the Study. Dr. Elena D. Gall is his Assistant.

Further hearings will be held around the country and finally a congressional hearing of the full committee on the independent living bill.

GOVERNOR PROPOSES (Continued from page 1)

The proposal to terminate the camp is expected to be recommended by the Governor when he submits his annual budget message. The plan, it was reported, would save an estimated \$1,786,583.

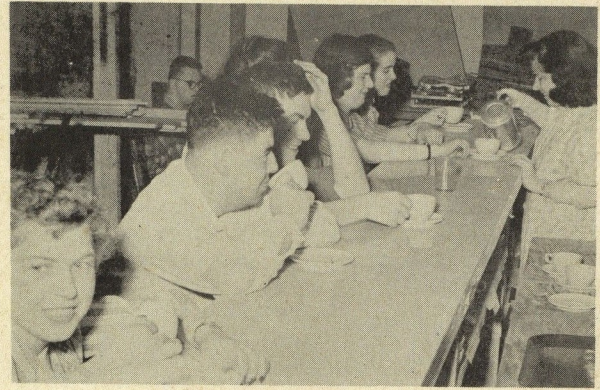
Under the change the camp would become an annex to Rome State School for Retarded Children. It could accommodate about 400 of these children. Conversion of the rest camp, at an estimated cost of \$500,000 will eliminate the need for construction of a \$1,500,000 addition to the Rome State School that was provided for under an earlier appropriation.

The camp has been in operation for the past 14 years and was established at the time when veterans' hospital facilities were critically short, at the end of World War II.

Speaking for the State AHRC, President Robert Wagner said, "The facilities at Rome State School are over 40% overcrowded with 4,200 children where 3,000 should be and something must be done to relieve a situation which may result in danger and even fatality to the patients there.

"The Governor is much more aware," he continued, "than ourselves of whether or not Mt. Gregor is needed as a rest camp for veterans. We congratulate the Governor, if the camp is to be discontinued, on his foresighted planning of this facility for the mentally retarded. Parents who now have to travel hundreds of miles to visit their children at Rome State School in Rome, New York, coming from the Canadian border of the state, will have a place much nearer to them where their beloved children will be housed. I repeat, if the camp is to be discontinued, we think that its use for retarded children is a wonderful one, showing humanity and understanding."

WESTCHESTER WORKSHOP CAFETERIA



The Sheltered Workshop operates a cafeteria which is run entirely by trainees. The girls are taught to shop and prepare the food and serve it. The Workshop clients are good customers.

ISRAEL TEACHER OF RETARDED DESCRIBES SERVICES IN ISRAEL

The recent nationwide tour of Haya Fuld, for fifteen years a teacher of retarded child in Haifa, Israel, will give Americans much to think about.

In an interview immediately preceding her departure for home, Mrs. Fuld contrasted the wealth of materials and resources for retarded children teachers in the United States with the lack of such facilities in Israel, where frequently the teachers from their meager salaries must purchase equipment for their classes.

"Nevertheless," said Mrs. Fuld, "with the exception of the few hospitalized, seriously ill retarded youngsters, the public school systems in Israel provide free and compulsory education to children of all mental capacities. Israel has few public institutions housing mentally retarded children. Most of them live at home and attend special neighborhood classes. The Israeli Government compels reluctant parents to bring from hiding even children considered hopeless. No matter what the child's IQ may be, the Israeli Government provides, within its desperately limited budget, the maximum training within the potential of the mentally retarded child."

In spite of the arduous work and long hours, low salaries and long preparation, special teachers and teachers in training are in abundance in Israel. The United States, on the other hand, has a scarcity of special teachers in this challenging work.

Understanding friends and relatives sponsored Mrs. Fuld's trip to the United States and will continue to send her information from the vast resources of American treasure box of education.

GOLFERS AID WESTCHESTER



The famous six Turnesa Brothers are playing a repeat exhibition golf match for the benefit of the Westchester Chapter. Last year the three younger brothers won and this year's is a "grudge" match.

STATE CONVENTION (Continued from page 3)

RESOLVED, that the State Department of Welfare reimburse Local County Welfare departments for placement of mentally retarded children in residential facilities as they now reimburse for the placement of children who are not mentally retarded.

RESOLVED, that the New York State Association for the Help of Retarded Children is gravely concerned with the delay in the construction of the State Schools proposed and authorized for Western New York, Long Island, and the special facility in Brooklyn, and urges the Governor of the State, the Department of Mental Hygiene and Public Works, and all other departments and agencies concerned to expedite the building of these new schools, and that this resolution be communicated to them.

RESOLVED, that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the State Department of Education provide funds to help with the establishment and operation of Sheltered Workshops without regard to any Federal aid.

RESOLVED, that education be provided for each child in an institution in the same quality and the same degree as that to which he would have been entitled had he remained in the community and that the cost shall be a charge against the school district from which the child originated.

RESOLVED, that Section 24 of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law in provisions with respect to the liability of the relatives of a patient in a state school, for care and maintenance, be repealed.

RESOLVED, that the major emphasis of the AHRC legislative program for 1960 be on the proposal to make classes for the trainable child mandatory.

RESOLVED, that this Association deplores the use of waiting lists for the admission of youngsters to the State Schools and urge the Department of Mental Hygiene to take immediate steps to provide for and accept youngsters under the age of five years.

RESOLVED, that this Association urge the immediate prosecution of a program to establish "half-way" houses by the Department of Mental Hygiene to provide a facility for the social supervision of retarded adults to speed their return to the community and to prevent institutionalization of adults who can remain in the community with social supervision and that if necessary legislation to implement this be introduced.

The legislative program once more highlighted mandatory legislation for which considerable community support is being mobilized this year in the hope of convincing the Governor that the bill should be signed if it is passed.

Robert H. Wagner, formerly president of the Monroe County Chapter, and Vice President of the AHRC was elected President for the coming year. Bob Wagner is a partner in a law firm of Easton and Wagner in Rochester and has been in the forefront of activities on a local, state and national level. Elected with him were First V.P., Augustus M. Jacobs, New York City, Second V.P., Tom Lotz, Rome State School, Third V.P., Sidney Van Deusen, Upper Hudson, Fourth V.P., Oscar Goehl, Erie County Chapter; Treasurer, Max W. Schachter, New York City, and Secretary Helen Kaplan, Nassau County. Elected to the Board of Governors were Saul Fliederbaum, Welfare League-Letchworth Village Chapter; Burton A. Hartman, Benevolent Society-Willowbrook Chapter, Dorothy Bingel, Oneida Herkimer; August Bischoff, Suffolk, Paul Cahalan, Sullivan, Henry Cox, Orange, Michael Falk, Welfare League-Letchworth Village, Bernard M. Fineson, New York City, Evald Gasstrom, Westchester, David Groberg, Welfare League, Ruth Gross, Nassau, William Heisler, Benevolent Society-Willowbrook, Anne Kraus, New York City, Sidney Leviton, New York, Eugene Lunken, Niagara, Mary D. McCarthy, Onondaga, Lycey Murdock, Chemung, John B. Thackston, Jefferson and Clifford Westfall, Schenectady.

A highlight of the Convention was the banquet. Dr. Richard Masland, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, spoke of the increasing interest which the national government is taking in the field of research for mental retardation. "It spells hope," he said, "for success in combating mental retardation." His talk brought closer to the delegates and members of the AHRC the significance of the research problem and the feeling that we were not working in isolation, but that many others were trying to help on a broader scale.

Entertainment was provided by a group of singers and dancers from the Letchworth Village State School under the direction of Miss Barbara Mulligan, Miss Barbara Austin, Patricia Morgan, Arthur Muller and Robert Harris. Allyn Edwards of New City presided as master of ceremonies and introduced the distinguished speaker and honored guests.

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CONSIDERS MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AT CONFERENCE

As part of the growing but careful consideration to the needs of the mentally handicapped being given by the President's Committee on Employ the Physically Handicapped and the Governor's Committee on Employ the Physically Handicapped, a special panel on "What May Be Done About Employment Opportunities for the Mentally Handicapped" was held in connection with the annual meeting of the Governor's Committee at the Plaza Hotel in New York City on October 9th, 1959.

The Chairman of the panel was Kenneth T. Johnson of Jamestown and the panelists were John Duffy, M.D., Medical Director, International Business Machines, Corp., John Mac Iver, M.D., American For Loyalty Group, Francis J. O'Neil, M.D., Deputy Central Islip State Hospital, Arthur W. Pense, M.D., Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene and Eugene J. Taylor, Editorial Staff, New York Times.

In short addresses during the luncheon program, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and Dr. Howard A. Rusk both spoke of the possible enlargement of the Committee to include the mentally handicapped and the problems that they present.

This is indeed a step forward in accord with the philosophy of the NARC and AHRC and bodes well for the retarded.

A MOTHER'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR A RETARDED CHILD

*For Christmas, God, I ask of you
No sables, minks, or diamonds blue;
These things have stirred me through and through,
But not now as I speak to you.*

*What most I want we cannot buy,
A gift that comes of worth so high:
Please, God, let our little boy try
To keep himself clean and dry.*

*We thank you most for having him
To teach us how your gifts have been
A constant Christmas with all the rest;
How each one talked and walked and dressed
And fed himself and went to bed
With not a thought in any head
How each step was a gift from you
Which we took as our selfish due.*

*Blest they who feel unwaited joys
That come as time unwraps their boys;
How every day is Christmas Day
When children grow and learn and play.*

*For Christmas, God, (Thy will be done)
Infuse this skill into our son.
For others, please, bright glittered fun
Around their trees with gifts deep-piled
To honor Your Exceptional Child.*

JOHN M. SCHEELER,

Fund Raising To Be Good In The Next Few Years

The prediction that the next two or three years may provide an ideal climate for fund raising in this country was made recently by Charles A. Anger, Chairman of the Board of John Price Jones, Inc. He attributed the "favorable condition", to the increasingly high level of employment and the economy generally; the expected continuation of high tax rates which encourage tax deductible giving; and the lack of competition from direct relief appeals.

"Philanthropy has produced only a small part of what it will do in the future for causes in institutions that are really needed by the people," he declared.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I am enclosing a copy, written by Sister Marie Denise, on the occasion of our son's First Communion in May 1959. I asked Sister especially to write it for publication in "Our Children's Voice."

"On Saturday, May 16, 1959, Mark Cahalan and Kristine Garvin received their First Holy Communion in St. Peter's Church, Monticello.

"The two years of special preparation for this day was thus climaxed by the Mass which their pastor Rev. John J. McGavick celebrated for them at 8 o'clock. All who took part in or witnessed the ceremony were edified and deeply moved by the attention and reverence exhibited by the children who are pupils of the Special Education Classes of the Monticello, Central Schools. The wholehearted response which the youngsters had manifested at their Sunday morning instruction classes had made this day possible. That they had truly absorbed a fundamental awareness of God and an appreciation of the Sacrament they were to receive was evidenced by their solemn bearing as they made their way into church in a procession led by Christine Wender and Barbara Starr, pupils of St. Peter's School. The latter, dressed in blue and gold gowns represented their guardian angels. Adding to the dignity and festal tone of the occasion by their participation in the procession, were other pupils of St. Peter's School.

"The children and young people of a community are its treasure—to be guarded and guided, but these children are in a unique way its sacred and precious trust. As they take each step forward as recognized and accepted members of society, this trust of Our Heavenly Father is being fulfilled. Each event such as this First Communion Day, may thus rightly be one of joy and satisfaction for their relatives and friends who provide the necessary interest and encouragement."

Needless to say, it was a day of great happiness for our family; something we thought could never come to pass.

Sincerely,
PAUL G. CAHALAN
Sullivan County Chapter

Gentlemen:

I am attaching hereto a clipping from the New York Times, July 26, 1959 issue, showing the cost of feeding a prisoner in Sing Sing to be 51 cents per day.

The Department of Mental Hygiene, Albany, has established a cost of maintaining a patient at Letchworth Village at \$151.50 per month.

If the food cost is the same in both institutions it means, that all other costs at Letchworth total \$135.50 per person per month. That is almost \$5.00 per day, which sounds like a commercial hotel rate and seems excessive.

May I suggest an investigation of the cost of maintenance in other institutions in New York State, New York City and other states for comparative purposes, starting with Sing Sing.

If you succeed in reducing the rate you will benefit many who are now paying the full rate and feeling it.

Respectfully yours,
ALEXANDER E. KANE

THE PROGRAM OF A SMALL CHAPTER OF AHRC

We have received a communication from our Jefferson County Chapter concerning their program which we felt of such interest to the Association and everyone in it that we wish to reproduce this letter almost in full. It follows:

"Dear Editor;

We thought perhaps you might be interested in the projects undertaken by the Jefferson County Chapter in the six and one-half years since our meeting.

Our original class was started in July of 1954 and was taken into the public school system in September of 1955.

Our own Peter C. Keischgens School is still in operation with a class of nine (three more are to be admitted). This class takes children from four years up. A few will probably never be accepted in the public school class because of physical handicaps in addition to their mental retardation. Most, however, we hope to pass on the public school class when they are old enough. We look upon our school as a sort of kindergarten to prepare them for the more advanced class. Both classes have a weekly swim period at the YWCA and a weekly dancing class.

In the summer, a local organization sponsored a two-hour weekly swimming and recreation period, hiring a young girl to teach them, who intends to continue her education in this field.

For over one year and a half, we have a 15 minute radio program once a month, during which we try to acquaint the general public with our purpose, problems and progress and also to teach parents who do not know about our group.

Our group was very instrumental in starting the Jefferson County Sheltered Workshop for Mentally and Physically Handicapped Adults.

Several group trips are held each summer so that our school children can keep in touch with each other. These excursions are to summer fun spots and are a gift of the management.

We are formulating a letter to be sent to service clubs, clergymen, sorority groups and such, informing them of our aims and accomplishments in opening doors to anyone who is interested in learning more about us.

A local minister is working hard to establish religious classes for our retarded children.

During the NRCW an all-out fund raising campaign is planned to help cover the rising costs due to the growth of our classes and to inform the public of our chapter.

It makes us happy to report that a great many of our own active members are not parents of retarded children. We feel that this shows a good interest on the part of our community and our work."

Signed, Sincerely Yours,
MARGURITA CASTRO
(Mrs. Salvatore Castro),
Chairman, Publication Relations."

Note that Watertown, the principal city has a population of about 35,000 and the county a population total of 80,000.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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