

# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*

*Can Be Helped!*



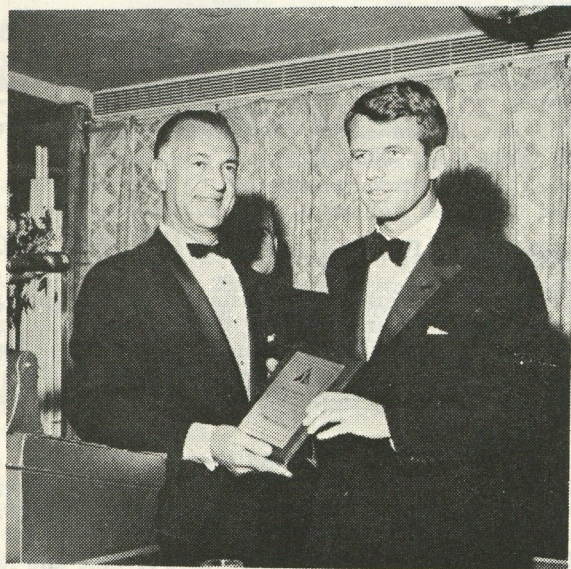
VOL. XV, — ISSUE NO. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1962

## HOCH ISSUES REGULATIONS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

### ROBERT F. KENNEDY HONORED BY NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, in an address at the Hotel Astor in June, said that the nation had "shamefully neglected" the problem of mental retardation, but that



L. to R. Paul Screvane, Chairman of N. Y. C. Council presenting award to Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

there were "hopeful signs that we are beginning to gird ourselves for a full-scale effort" against it.

He addressed 500 persons at a dinner of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter where he was honored for his efforts on behalf of the mentally retarded. He said that efforts to deal with the problem have been minimal compared with those pointed toward control of diabetes, tuberculosis and muscular dystrophy.

Less attention has been given mental retardation even though it is 10 times more prevalent than diabetes, 20 times more prevalent than tuberculosis and 25 times as prevalent as muscular dystrophy, he said.

### NEW LAW FOR CHILDREN ON WAITING LIST IMPLEMENTED

The measure signed into law this year that provides that the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene may, if overcrowding exists in State institutions, authorize the admission of any mental defective who is under five years of age to a "designated hospital, institution or facility maintaining adequate staff and facilities for such purposes as approved by the Commissioner" was implemented by regulations issued by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Paul H. Hoch.

The statute also provides for payment from the State Treasury to the amount of the appropriation (\$180,000) for such care and treatment. Reimbursement for the support of such patients shall be required under the provisions of the Mental Hygiene Law relating to reimbursements for patients in State facilities. Placement in private institutions is a temporary measure until openings can be found in the State schools. The following are the regulations that the Commissioner has issued to implement this law:

"1. Patients are eligible only after the cases have been investigated and have been placed on the waiting list in accordance with the procedure established in the Commissioner's memorandum dated June 1, 1961."

"2. Financial priority shall be given to cases where it is impossible for the family to care for the child at home because of the retardate's medical and nursing needs. Such children are those with frequent seizures, severe cerebral palsy, hydrocephaly, etc."

"3. Licensed private institutions with facilities to care for young children requiring nursing attention will be approved by the Commissioner for the placement of these children. Other hospitals, institutions or facilities will be approved after it has been determined that they have adequate staff and facilities for the purpose."

"4. After authorization has been given, the facility may be chosen by the parents from a list of facilities approved by the Commissioner for the care of similar children. Arrangements are then made by the Parents with the head of the facility selected for the placement and care of the child. It should be noted that the head of the facility determines who shall be admitted at his facility. As it is not practicable to move the child from one facility to another the choice, once made, will be maintained. State representatives will visit the facility from time to time."

"5. Children will not be transported by the State from their homes to the temporary placement facility. Families will be requested to transport the child from the facility to the State institution at the appropriate time."

(Continued on page 15)



## OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by  
**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
 FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.**  
 19 UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.  
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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: **PETER C. KEISCHGENS**  
 Executive Director and Editor: **JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD**

## WHO SHOULD ADMINISTER INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES?

Our readers know there is before Congress a bill called "The Independent Living Bill" whose purpose is to help severely handicapped individuals achieve independence in caring for their own daily needs, but who may not be able to achieve vocational independence. It also aims to assist the states in the establishment of public and private nonprofit workshops and rehabilitations facilities.

A great deal of debate has been going on the last two years as to who should administer this bill.

It is the position of this Association, and we are sure others dealing with vocational rehabilitation, that the agency best suited to administer this bill is the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

In this connection the debate has been going on in "The Bridge," the rehabilitation news letter of the New York Chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association. The following is a letter to the editor by Joseph T. Weingold examining the affects of administration on the mentally retarded and the mentally ill.

"Dear Editor:

I have read with a great deal of interest the article on the Independent Living Bill in the May issue of "The Bridge."

"Almost all of us working in the field of rehabilitation are very enthusiastic about the possibilities of this bill. In our eagerness to achieve passage of such a measure, we may, however, be tempted to sacrifice some principles which will affect to the greatest degree the implementation of such a law. I refer specifically to which department of government will administer the act."

"Three agencies are mentioned as possible administrators, the Department of Health, the Department of Welfare and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. As you state in your article the major argument in favor of the Health Department is that independent living bill is essentially a medical problem and therefore should be handled by a medically oriented administrator. The Department of Welfare, as you state, believes that a large number of the disabled who will be handled by this bill are receiving welfare assistance and therefore it should be administered by a welfare agency."

"I should like to examine very briefly how these arguments would apply to the mentally retarded and the post-psychotic who, in my opinion, may constitute the greatest number of those who will be affected by this bill. I should like to ask by what alchemy can these two large groups be translated into essentially a medical problem. Furthermore, the history of the Health Department and its focus in this state clearly demonstrates that it has no concern with these two large groups, always insisting, even when we say that some of the aspects of these two groups are a public health problem, that they are the concern of the Department of Mental Hygiene."

"By the same token, I should like the Department of Welfare to justify its statement with regard to these two groups that a large number of them are receiving welfare assistance. And even admitting this, does this qualify the

(Continued Next Column)

## EXPANDING PROGRAMS FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

### STATE CONVENTION TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF EXPANDING PROGRAMS IN GLENS FALLS

This year's annual convention of the New York State Association will be held in Glens Falls, New York, in the foothills of the Adirondacks, at the Queensbury Hotel on October 5, 6, 7.

The convention will review what has taken place in New York State to implement the recommendations of the 1960 White House conference and explore the practical aspects of program development necessitated by the widening horizons for the mentally retarded in this state. The tour of the new facility at Mt. McGregor promises to be one of the interesting experiences of the convention. The delegates will find themselves involved in real work sessions in four workshops planned on budget preparation, applications for community mental health services, starting and financing sheltered workshops and recreation and rehabilitation in institutions.

Meetings are also planned with the workshop directors, executive directors and finally a breakfast with the presidents led by Peter C. Keischgens, President of the Association, to discuss leadership development.

Our friend, Elizabeth Boggs, former president of the NARC and a member of the President's Panel on Mental Retardation, will be the featured speaker at the Saturday night banquet to tell us about the work of the President's Panel.

All members of the AHRC will be welcome and are urged to attend this important convention.

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESERVATIONS IN IMMEDIATELY TO THE HOTEL QUEENSBURY DIRECTLY OR TO Mr. Harold Lucia, Convention Chairman, 4 Vista Court, Glens Falls, New York.

### INDEPENDENT LIVING (Continued from prev. Col.)

Department of Welfare to administer a rehabilitation program for those who are receiving its assistance. Let us go further. Even if a considerable number are receiving assistance, how does this justify the Department of Welfare administering an act for those who are not receiving assistance."

"It is evident to me that the one agency that has concerned itself, in a rehabilitation sense, both with the mentally retarded and the post-psychotic, as well as the physically handicapped, has been the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. It would be a terrible waste of time and funds expended, experience gained and understanding achieved if this agency were not permitted to do a job which is merely a further extension of what it is already doing."

"I take exception to the statement you made that 'the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation feels that the intent of the bill is to enable movement of those who have been confined to the home to competitive employment.' This is certainly not the major intent of the act. Nor is this the complete focus of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Rehabilitation Act of 1954. Competitive employment is but one aim of vocational rehabilitation. The Act specifically speaks of employment in a sheltered workshop.

"I don't think we ought to pussy foot about this any longer. I suggest that we come out flatly and state what all of us in vocational rehabilitation feel very strongly through personnel, experience and philosophy, the agency to administer this act is the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. It would be a pity to have the handicapped crushed under a power push."



## SCHOOL FOR THE RETARDED—SUFFOLK COUNTY

### NEW BUILDING OPENED AT MT. MC GREGOR

#### FACILITY ENLARGED

Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Paul H. Hoch, announced on May 18 the opening of the second building for mentally retarded patients at the Mt. McGregor Division of Rome State School, Wilton.

Patients are being transferred from the Rome State School and by May 23rd it was estimated that a total of 36 will be in residence in the rehabilitated and newly equipped building, Dr. Hoch said. An additional 40 patients will be moved early in June. It is anticipated that a total of 213 will have been transferred from Rome by the end of the summer, bringing the total population of the Mt. McGregor Division at that time to 343.

This four-story infirmary building, formerly known as the "rest home", will be used for severely retarded patients who require 24 hour care, according to Dr. Charles Greenberg, director of Rome State School and the Mt. McGregor Division. The first ward to open, on the top floor, is for children ranging in age from 18 months to 10 years. Rehabilitated at a cost of approximately \$650,000, it will provide a full range of infirmary services for the patients.

Patients whose relatives reside in the capital district area and the northeastern section of the state have been selected for transfer to the new building. New admissions will continue to be received at Rome State School, but it is hoped, said Dr. Greenberg, that the placement of this group of patients at Mt. McGregor will serve the two-fold purpose of providing a more convenient location for family visiting and of relieving overcrowding at the Rome institution.

Three nurses and 12 attendants already have received two weeks training at Rome State School to staff the new building. Further training programs are scheduled and it is expected that the full personnel complement will be 18 nurses and 70 attendants.

Long range plans call for the construction of a \$17 million state school on the state-owned farm land located east of Route 9 at Wilton. An appropriation of \$2 million has been made to commence construction.

#### KEY

1. BUILDINGS FOR INFIRM PATIENTS
2. MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND RECEPTION BUILDING
3. INFANTS BUILDING
4. REHABILITATION BUILDING
5. ADULT PATIENTS BUILDINGS
6. SPECIAL TREATMENT BUILDINGS
7. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
8. SCHOOL CHILDREN'S BUILDINGS
9. CHILDREN'S PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL
10. INDUSTRIAL GROUP
11. STAFF GROUP
12. SCHOOL
13. EMPLOYEES RESIDENCE

### H. S. STUDENTS IN LETCHWORTH PROJECT

Ten Rockland County students have been selected to participate in a 1962 summer service-study program in mental retardation. The program is being sponsored by Letchworth Village, the Rockland County Day School, and the Grant Foundation of New York City.

The boys and girls selected will live at Letchworth Village to study mentally retarded children and the methods of treatment employed by the state. In addition to specific objectives of training in the program one general objective hoped for is "to generate a group of aware individuals who, through their own motivation, experience and growth can bring new insight into the problems of retardation to their communities, schools and associates."

The program will extend from July 1 to August 24, and will be directed by a staff from Letchworth Village, the Country Day School, and Columbia University.



## MANDATE SPURS INCREASE OF CLASSES FOR RETARDED

### 60% INCREASE FOR TRAINABLE

Figures of the Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children of the State Education Department indicate that classes for trainable children in public schools increased by more than 60% in the year 1961-1962 over 1960-1961. The law mandating such classes for trainable children became effective September 1, 1961.

The number of such classes in the year 1961-62 is 285 as against 182 in the previous year. The number of children has jumped by over a thousand to 2,824 in 1961-1962 as against 1,714 the previous year.

The smallest increase in proportion to population was shown in New York City where there are now 72 classes for the trainable as against 56 in the year 1960-61.

The total number of classes for all the mentally retarded in public schools in the State of New York is now 2,340 as against 2,085 the previous year. This figure includes the classes for the trainable. There are now 31,401 children attending special classes for the mentally retarded as against 28,775 in 1960-61, an increase of over 2500 children.

These figures speak for themselves according to Jim Maroon, Chairman of the Association's Education Committee. They also indicate, he said, the great amount of education the Association has done with local school boards to further understanding and willingness to serve the mentally retarded in the public schools.

## NASSAU EXPANDS PROGRAM FOR RETARDED

### VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL BOARD PROGRESS REPORT INDICATES

375 children with intelligence quotients of less than 50 were given instruction under the sponsorship of the Vocational Education and Extension Board of Nassau County in the year 1961-2, according to a progress report recently issued.

It is the policy of the Vocational Education and Extension Board to sponsor any shared public educational service requested in the public school districts in the county and fire departments in accordance with state education law.

The program at the Special Services School in Westbury includes classes for the severely mentally retarded, the blind, the hard of hearing, brain injured, and the emotionally disturbed. In addition it provides vocational training for high school youths and adult education for more than 1,100.

Programs for trainable mentally retarded children have been under the sponsorship of the Board for the past 6 years. For the first time, mentally retarded of kindergarten age will attend for ½ day in each school day this year. At the other end of the school age scale adolescents received semi-vocational training so that they may acquire limited skills and thus become more useful and self supporting members of society.

Supplementing the instructional program, full and part time services of a speech therapist, psychologist, social workers, dental hygienist and school nurse are available. Services of a well known educational consultant in the field are fully utilized.

The program has grown from 89 children in the year 1957-58 to the 375 this past year.

The Association for the help of Retarded Children, Nassau County Chapter, cooperates with the Board in providing facilities for school children and those youths who could not benefit by the program of the Board, or are ready for sheltered workshop activities.

"Our objective", states the report, "is to provide the opportunity to achieve social and vocational competency to the best of each child's ability, is making progress."

## "PROBLEMS AND ISSUES IN THE EDUCATION OF THE TRAINABLE CHILD"

### Annual Education Conference Co-Sponsored By State Education Dept.

The Ninth Annual New York State Conference of Administrators, Supervisors and Teachers of Classes for Trainable Mentally Retarded Children was held on Friday, May 25th and Saturday 26th, 1962. For the first time it was co-sponsored by the New York State Education Department. More than 150 specialists met to discuss the trainable child in school.



James Maroon, Chairman, Education Committee, State ARC, addresses the meeting. L. to R. Charles Becker, Dr. Ralph Colvin, Kennedy Foundation; and Joseph T. Weingold.

The Friday meeting held at the Special Services School, 689 Main Street, Westbury, Long Island, New York, was a seminar for Administrators and Supervisors who discussed the problems and issues from their point of view.

The meeting was welcomed by Mr. Charles R. Wallendorf, Director of the Vocational Education and Extension Board, Nassau County, that conducts a complex of services for the mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed and other handicapped children. The problems and issues concerned themselves with four major areas: Children — admissions, retentions; Evaluation of Growth — program, — curriculum planning, organizing the school day; Teachers — selection — in-service training and planning; Parents and the Community — relationships with parents, with community organizations, with other training facilities.

The Chair of this session was Professor Chris DeProspero and the resource person was Mr. Charles Becker, Chief of the Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children, N. Y. State Department of Education. The recorder was Helen Kaplan, Executive Director of the Nassau County Chapter of the association.

On Friday also visits were made available to the Occupational Training Center of the New York City Board of Education, the new facility for 17-21 retarded, the AHRC Workshop and Training Center operated by the New York City Chapter and the AHRC Occupational Day Center for trainable adults also operated by the city chapter.

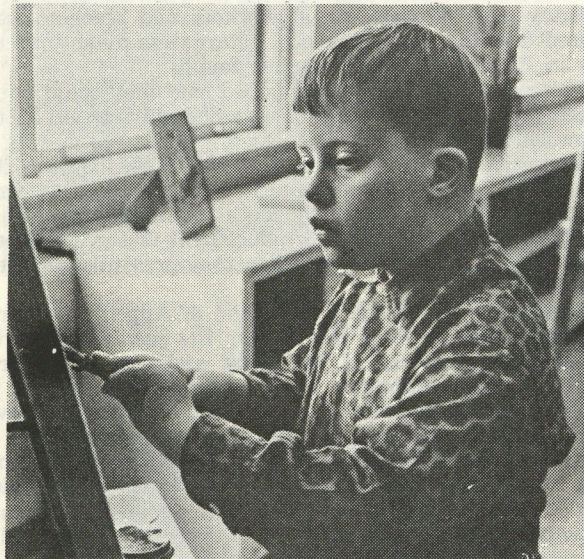
The Saturday meeting, primarily focused for teachers, was held in the Banquet Room of the Carnegie International Center at 345 East 46th Street. Here the problems and issues were divided into Children; Methods and Organization; Evaluations; and Relationships. Chairman was Professor Horace Mann, Director of Special Education, University of Buffalo and the Resource persons were Mrs. Dorothy Buehring of New York State Dept. of Education; Donald J. Ciaglia Director of the Day Care Center, Rochester, N. Y.; Theresa M. Lawrence, Erie County Chapter A. R. C.; Phoebe Lazarus, Teacher, Special Education Nassau County; Mr. Charles McAllister Director of Education, State Dept. Mental Hygiene; Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, Professor of Special Education Brooklyn College; Miss Dorothy Schaefer, Director, Special Education, Yonkers, N. Y.; Dr. Elkin Snyder, Assistant Director, Bureau C.R.M.D., N.Y.C.; and Miss Mabel Talbot, Teachers College, Columbia University.

The meeting was presided over by James Maroon, Chairman of the AHRC Education Committee who welcomed the delegates and conferees in the absence of Peter C. Keischgens President of the Association.



## THE 1962 NARC POSTER BOY CHOSEN

A little boy named David has been chosen 1962 Poster Child by the National Association for Retarded Children.



**David Jordale, 1962 N.A.R.C. Poster Boy**

Only son among four children of Mr. and Mrs. William Jordalen of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, David is mentally retarded as the result of a condition known as mongolism. The NARC hopes David's cheerful personality, active boyhood and hopeful future will fell many giant public misconceptions about mongolism and build more public understanding for retarded children everywhere.

This year the chubby eight-year-old will appear on posters and pamphlets representing America's 5.4 million retarded. He will also travel at times to help in public education campaigns of NARC's 950 local member Units.

## CHILDREN IN CLASSES IN STATE SCHOOLS

### PROGRAM FOR EDUCABLE FAR AHEAD OF THAT FOR TRAINABLE

Figures presented at the meeting of the parents groups with representatives of the Department of Mental Hygiene on May 22 showed that there were 1,772 educable children between the ages of 5-16 in classrooms in state institutions and 420 educable between the ages of 17-20. The total number of educable children in the state institutions between the ages of 5-16 were estimated at 1,876 and between the ages of 17-20 at 1,098.

Of the 1,881 trainable children in the state institutions between the ages of 5-16, 978 are attending classes, and of the 879 trainable between the ages of 17-20, only 48 are attending classes.

Mr. McAllister, Director of Education for the Department of Mental Hygiene, noted some of these children are also in occupational therapy and recreation classes. For the educable the class size is approximately that recommended for such pupils who are attending community schools. The total program for educable children is approximately that of the community but the time in strictly education classes is between one half and two thirds of the total time. Class sizes for the trainable are generally above the standard recommended and the number of hours per day is considerably less than that established in the community.

The same problems that beset the community in the development of classes are present in the institutions, lack of space and teachers.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCES HELD BY ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

Spring is the time of the year when the various chapters of the New York State Association hold their spring conferences. These conferences serve to bring together representatives of the various chapters, members and others, many of whom cannot attend the state conventions but refresh themselves and exchange ideas at these regional spring meetings.

Three such meetings have been held in May and June, the first at the Rome State School in the Western Region; the second at New York City for the Southeast Region; and the third in Schenectady for the Northeast Regional Conference.

The program for the Northeast Regional Conference highlighted the presentation of the work of the Governor's Council on rehabilitation. It was presented by Dr. Joseph Fenton, Special Assistant to the New York State Inter-Departmental Health and Hospital Council. Participants also were Honorable Joseph F. Egan, Member of the Assembly, Schenectady County, and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the State Association.

The Southeast Regional Conference put together a number of experts in the field of tax problems of parents with retarded children. The Moderator was Mr. Leo Fixler, Chairman of the Residential Committee of the Association. Participants were Mr. Joseph Heller, Internal Revenue Agent U. S. Treasury Dept.; Mr. Percy Greenberg, Estate & Gift Tax Division, United States Treasury Dept.; Mr. Arthur E. Hess, Asst. Director, Social Security Administration; Mr. Benjamin Bernstein, N. Y. State Dept. of Taxation; Arthur W. Pense, M.D. Director, Office of Mental Retardation—New York State Dept. of Mental Hygiene; and Mr. William E. Patchen, Chief Special Agent, Reimbursement.

According to Mr. Fixler it is planned to bring together the talks at this meeting into some kind of pamphlet form for the use of the parents. One such talk is already at hand, Childhood Disability Benefits Under Social Security, which should prove extremely interesting and informative to all the parents of retarded children.

The chairman of the meeting was Mrs. John Gross, first vice-president of the State Association.

## BRYDGES HONORED BY NCCJ AWARD

State Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman of the Joint Legislator Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap and of the Education Committee of the New York State Senate, received the annual brotherhood citation of the Niagara Falls Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The award was presented at the chapter's annual dinner on June 20 at the Hotel Niagara where the AHRC was represented by Peter C. Keischgens, president, and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director.

Sen. Brydges was one of the founders of the Niagara Falls Chapter, NCCJ, and served as co-chairman for six years. He has participated in the Conference speaker's bureau, not only in Niagara Falls, but also in the western New York Region.

All are aware of the enormous contribution Sen. Brydges has made in the field of education and especially in the field of aid to the handicapped in this state. In 1958 he was the recipient of the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Award of the New York State Teacher's Association for conspicuous service to education.

Just a month before, on May 18, Sen. Brydges was honored at a testimonial dinner, sponsored by friends of the Senator. More than 500 persons, including Senator Majority Leader Walter J. Mahoney of Buffalo and Lt. Governor Malcolm Wilson gave Senator Brydges a standing ovation.



## COMMUNITY REFERRALS TO HALF-WAY HOUSE LACKING

### REPORT ON ROCHESTER PROJECT DISCLOSES

A report on the operation of the residence center in connection with the Rochester demonstration project, from June 26, 1960 to November 15, 1961, reveals an almost total lack of community referrals to this facility.

According to the report, 15 young men have been referred for residential placement and workshop training during the 17 months of the residential units existence. 13 of these were accepted. 12 of these accepted came from Newark State School, while only 1 came from the community. Of the 12 from Newark, 5 were eventually returned. "Since neither I.Q. nor age differentiated those who returned from those who stayed in the community," the report says, "it is probable that personality factors played an important role in success in the community or failure and subsequent return to Newark."

Of the remaining seven from Newark who remained in the Residence Unit, two found employment outside the workshop. One other of the seven was placed in his own home but remains in the workshop. Four of those originally from Newark plus one from the community remain in the Residence Unit.

The report raises certain questions, although it admits that it is too early to evaluate the unit and the trends clearly. These questions are:

1. Difficulty in getting adequate personnel;
2. Unless run at maximum, operating costs will be higher than anticipated; and
3. The failure to fill the unit to capacity.

Addressing itself to this last point the report states that to date there have been no more than 10 trainees in the unit at any one time, although 15 would be maximum. The Community has referred only three of whom only one was accepted.

"A further effort", states the report, "must be made in two directions if the need for this unit is to be found significant. Evaluation for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation from out of the county needs exploration (there was only one referral from outside of Monroe County). A more intensive effort must be made in the community to prevent institutionalization."

## TROY PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM GROWS

### TWO NEW CLASSES TO BE STARTED

The Troy Public School System will add two new classes for the mentally retarded next fall to meet the growing demands for services in accordance with the state law.

The program has grown under the guidance of Miss Mary A. Nugent, supervisor of reading, testing and specialized education for the Troy system. A special appropriation in the 1962-63 budget provides for a full-time psychologist who will examine children to determine their needs under the specialized program.

According to the present operation the Troy system has nine classes for children with IQ's of 50 to 75 and two classes for those with IQ's under 50. The latter two classes are new to the system this year. Miss Nugent said four more classes may be added in the 50-75 category next year.

The Capital District Chapter has cooperated with the Troy school system in the development of this program where 155 retarded pupils are now being served.

## HARD TO GET PROFESSIONAL WORKERS FOR RETARDED, POLL SHOWS

Many psychologists, social workers and teachers, can't be lured into the field of mental retardation at any price, a study in Rochester, New York, has found.

Thirteen per cent of those polled said they could not be induced to work with mentally retarded children no matter how much money they were offered.

More than half of those interviewed described the field as "too static" or "too depressing" to take up as a career.

One out of two said they might consider entering the field, but only if the financial inducement was great enough — at least \$2,000 a year more than they presently receive in other fields.

The study was made by Melville J. Appell, director of the state demonstration project for the mentally retarded in Rochester; Clarence M. Williams, assistant professor of education and coordinator of educational research at the University of Rochester; and Kenneth N. Fishell, University of Rochester assistant professor of education.

Appell said the study was triggered by experiences under the state demonstration project, which has provided about \$150,000 a year for the last three years in experimenting with newer program and services for the retarded in Rochester. Appell said the project has suffered to some degree because of difficulties in recruiting and holding professional people.

Data for the study was collected from questionnaires sent to 169 psychologists, social workers and teachers.

"The implications of the study are that salary increments alone are not sufficient to attract the needed personnel," the researchers said in a preliminary report. "Nevertheless, salary increments afford an inducement. The traditional amounts of five and ten per cent are probably not adequate since increments of up to \$2,000 would only attract 50 per cent of the professionals in this study."

The study found that those who are already in the field, primarily teachers, felt that altruism is the primary motivating factor for entering the field. It also found that the few professionals who enter the field apparently do so only because they have had some orientation to the field in their training or work experience.

It is not apparent from the report, as we have had it, whether this situation is merely indicative of the attitude in Rochester, because we do not know whether the questionnaires were sent to professionals outside of that area.

The researchers suggest that studies be undertaken to explore the possibility of merging programs or parts of programs in mental retardation with programs of other disability groups, because of the apparent difficulty in obtaining professionals.

Commenting on this one of the advisors of the state association said, "I cannot see why, if professionals will not work with the mentally retarded in the situations as they now are, they should be willing to work with them if the services to this disability are combined with other disabilities. This seems to me an illogical conclusion from insufficient facts."

## MENTAL HEALTH BOARD AIDS CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

The Board of Supervisors of Albany County has authorized the County Mental Health Board to enter into a contract with the Capital District Chapter of the Association at an annual rate of \$5,987 for day training services for the mentally retarded. Half of this amount is to be donated by the Association and the other comes from the state.

According to Mr. Reissig, President of the Chapter, this contract is for the balance of the year. A new budget for a year's operation will be presented to the Mental Health Board in the fall.



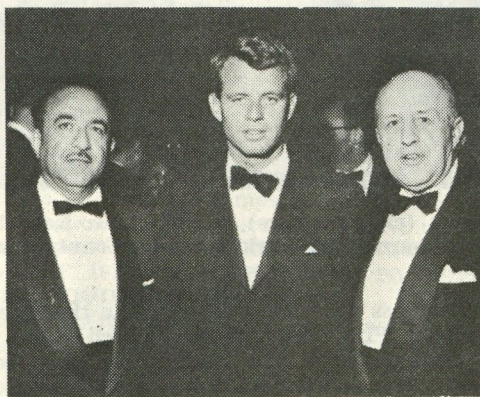
# AT THE KENNEDY DINNER IN NEW YORK CITY



L. to R. Paul Screvane, President, New York City Chapter; Beame, Comptroller; and Bill Leonard listening to Tallulah Bankhead.



Atty. Gen. Kennedy wows them. Notice Eva Gabor? and at the extreme right Sam Cooke Diggs and his beautiful wife.



L. to R. Seymour Rubin, President, New York City Chapter; Robert F. Kennedy; and Jerome F. Frank, President, National Democratic Club.



L. to R. Dr. Raphael Danker, Eva Gabor, Robert F. Kennedy, and Abe Stark, President, Borough of Brooklyn

## HUNTINGTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, SPONSORS RECREATION PROGRAM FOR RETARDED

The Huntington Town Recreation Department, under the guidance of Director Joseph G. Anderson, has sponsored a program geared to the needs of children who are mentally retarded this past summer. The Huntington Auxiliary of the AHRC provided assistance to the program.

This is the second year this program has been directed by the Huntington Township Recreation Department. It is significant of the Chapter's approach towards recreation, where many townships are being involved in sponsoring such programs.

The site of the programs was the Broadway Elementary School in Greenlawn. It provided a tree lined area with swings and slides, gymnasium, mats and apparatus.

The Centerport Beach was available through the Township Swimming Program where the children were instructed in basic breathing and progressive steps in adjusting to any fear of the water. They were also engaged in general activities to improve skills and body fitness as well as active and quiet games such as soccer, relay races, checkers and nok hockey.

Transportation was provided for all the children. The program began on July 2 and ran through August 14.

## PARENT ADDRESSES TEACHERS OF SPECIAL CLASSES

Sidney Van Dusen, Third Vice President of the State Association for Retarded Children, was one of the speakers at the second annual workshop sponsored by the Saratoga County Association of Special Class Teachers, of Mentally Handicapped Children and the Bureau for Handicapped Children of the New York State Department of Education at the Hotel Rip Van Dam in Saratoga Springs in April of this year. Mr. Van Dusen was recently elected president of the local Warren-Washington Counties Chapter of the Association.

Great concern for the future of special education classes under the Speno-Henderson-Dickenson legislation recently passed by the New York State legislature was expressed by many of the speakers. Mr. Van Dusen, joining in this concern, told of the experiences of the Association in getting classes started for the mentally retarded.

Joseph Weiner, president of the Teachers Association presided at the meeting. Other speakers included Dr. Byron Evans, superintendent of schools, Saratoga Springs; Salvatore Tavormina, associate in education of mentally retarded, New York State Department of Education; William Van Derwerker, chairman of audio-visual aids in the Ballston Spa Central Schools; Walter Schofield, director of Camp Triangle, a private summer camp for the retarded near Saranac Lake, and Bernard Shawn of the Phillips Schuyler School in Albany.



## WESTCHESTER CHAPTER DISCONTINUES CLINIC AID

### FORCED TO DO SO, SAYS THEIR PRESIDENT

In a letter dated April 26, 1962, William C. Woodson, president of the Westchester Chapter of the Association, informed Dr. Sheldon Gaylin, Director of the Community Mental Health Board of Westchester, that the Westchester Chapter of the Association has decided to discontinue its matching financial support of the Diagnostic Clinic at the Burke Foundation in White Plains at the conclusion of the calendar year 1962.

This decision, says the letter, was necessitated by the current financial situation of the Association.

"Historically," writes Mr. Woodson, "the philosophy of our Association has been to pioneer in the development of direct service pilot projects for the mentally handicapped, in the hope that once the value and the need for these services has been amply demonstrated, the costs for their continuing operation would eventually be assumed by the community. This, unfortunately, has not occurred, and the responsibility for the maintenance of these services has continued to remain with us."

"The financial burden," continues the letter, "of these programs has now become so great that our only alternative, if we are to survive as an Association, is to spend no more than we receive from the community each year, even if it means sacrificing vitally needed services."

The almost \$12,000 cut of the White Plains Community Chest allocations to the Westchester Chapter was a not inconsiderable factor in creating the operating deficit for the year.

The Chapter suggests the Clinic has so amply demonstrated its effectiveness and need that this facility should be supported entirely by the Community, instead of only by half. This half comes from the Community Mental Health Board and state funds, nothing coming from the County itself.

Mr. Woodson asked the Community Mental Health Board for reimbursement for the following programs in Westchester County which are now supported by the Westchester Chapter: the sheltered workshop; Adult Recreation Program; and 3 Day Training Centers. With this support it may be possible, concluded Mr. Woodson, for the Chapter to continue the services currently being provided by the Association in Westchester.

## PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW YORK CHAPTERS COOPERATE ON CAMPING

Four Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children chapters and three chapters of the New York State Association, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany, joined together to sponsor a camp for mentally retarded children.

Camp Cornplanter is located in the heart of the Allegheny forest between Morrison and Ludlow, Pennsylvania, on 35 acres of land. Here 100 campers, all retarded children, have the opportunity to participate in camp activities for a four-week period, July 22-August 18.

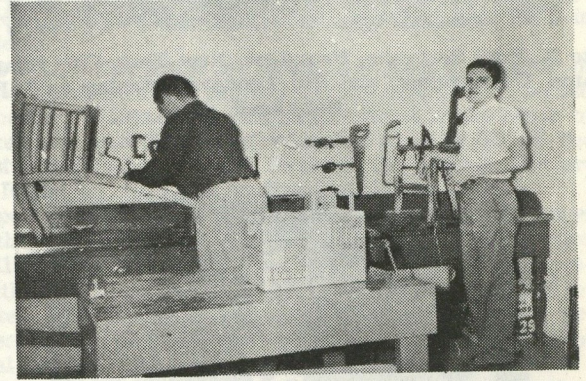
The camp has been in operation for three years and is built on federal land. The site includes eight cabins, each containing three rooms which accommodate twelve campers, plus staff, and infirmary and a large activities building housing a dining room and kitchen. Along with these indoor activity areas, is a filtered swimming pool, ball field, basketball court, safe hiking trails, a large camp fire ring with off-the-ground seating a "little theatre" area.

## ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY CHAPTER AIDS TEEN-AGER

### CHAPTER COMPLEMENTS SCHOOL PROGRAM

Under the Public School Program in Ogdensburg special classes have been set up for retarded children between the ages of 7 and 11, but as yet no formal educational aids have been provided for those over 12.

To fill this need, classes sponsored by the St. Lawrence County Chapter of the Association, the youngest chapter in the association, aided by the United Fund and civic organizations, have been instituted.



Work project (caning chairs) in School for Retarded Children in Auburn, New York (Cayuga County Chapter).

The local class meets in a workshop in the basement of the Ogdensburg First Presbyterian Church House 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. each day and runs right along with the school year to help those children not able to attend public school. Classes are open to all retarded children in St. Lawrence County who may benefit by this work.

At present only boys are enrolled in the classes. The girls will be accepted if enough can be enrolled to open another workshop according to Mrs. Arthur Reagan, workshop director.

Mrs. Reagan is assisted by a volunteer each day. The new workshop has been open since April and replaces the "pilot school" for the children between 7-11 who are now allowed to attend public school in the new special class. Seeing the need, however, for this type of session for older retardates, the Association decided to set up a workshop.

The program is work oriented and the youngsters turn out such items as hot-dish holders, brooms, bird houses, and many other projects in the shop. Ice cream containers, donated by Woolworth's and made into waste baskets, and much other material, donated by local civil groups, is used in the shop program. It is hoped that the program will demonstrate to the school system the need for classes for children up to the age of 21.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

\$5½ million dollars a month is being paid in Social Security to 128,000 handicapped over 18 . . .

That seven out of ten of these are mentally retarded . . . That two thirds of them are at home . . . 41,000 of these are in institutions (mostly for the mentally retarded). In an editorial for the Journal of Rehabilitation, Gunnar Dybwad, Executive Director of N.A.R.C. stated, "A conservative estimate of the actual expenditures by agencies and families in connection with mental retardation exceeds \$1 billion. This sum does not include the loss to the national economy (estimated to be more than \$5 billion) resulting from the numerous unemployed retarded adults prevented from contributing to the gross national product."



# Chapter News

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CHAPTER reports that it now has religious instruction for retarded children in Olean . . . Father Joseph of St. Joseph's Church takes the children to and from school himself . . . The children are taught by students from St. Bonaventure University . . . Protestant classes started in April . . . ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER has new executive Director, Richard Mahaney . . . Planning lots of new programs for the fall . . . MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER actively engaged in summer day camp . . . had Jack Pickering, Science Editor of the Hearst Headline Service its featured speaker at the Annual Meeting . . . Mr. Pickering is of recent series of five articles in the Hearst Newspapers speaker at the Annual Meeting . . . Mr. Pickering is author pers entitled "America's Lost Children" . . . Hear by the grapevine that Bob Wagner is being heavily backed for designation for the newly created judgeship in the Family Court . . . Cannot think of a better man . . . wonder what's holding up the Governor . . . In ONONDAGA COUNTY our old friend Mrs. Edith Romano once more on the democratic ticket running for Commissioner of Education in Syracuse . . . Did you know that Syracuse is the site of the first building erected in the nation to care for the mentally retarded . . . Hear that Robert Daly has been appointed Director of the Training Center of the ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER in Syracuse . . . Former Superintendent of Solvay Schools . . . and of course summer day camps . . . Hear the fund drive was very disappointing in Syracuse . . . Have not been able to get complete reports . . . CHAPTERS! PLEASE SEND IN NEWS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU! LET'S HAVE THE GOOD WITH THE BAD! . . . BENEVOLENT SOCIETY-WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER again planning its Fall luncheon . . . BENEVOLENT SOCIETY DAY celebrated at Willowbrook Sunday, June 24 . . . You should have seen the kids . . . and you should have seen the rain . . . the new WARREN-WASHINGTON CHAPTER going great guns . . . Has already begun to issue a bulletin . . . had a summer day camp . . . planning other activities for the fall . . . with Sid Van Dusen on the Mental Health Board it should be a cinch . . . Did you see the Oldsmobile the WELFARE LEAGUE-LETCWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER is giving as a prize . . . And who is twisting with whom at the Masquerade party up there . . . the newsletter of WELFARE LEAGUE for April had an interesting page to permit readers to indicate their interests, the committees on which they would like to serve . . . and BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER . . . Ah! there . . . reports so many activities it is difficult to keep up with them . . . note that they have purchased an IBM electric typewriter and stand . . . apparently business is bad for IBM and we have to buy our equipment . . . had a fine editorial in the Binghamton Press . . . on May 9th . . . ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER co-sponsored weekend Camporee for scouts . . . and our old friends in SUFFOLK COUNTY . . . are still fighting for that day training center aid from the Mental Health Board . . . Just had its second annual birthday party for the clinic . . . a very interesting development in SUFFOLK COUNTY was the report of the blind volunteers helping retarded children . . . folded information material that was distributed by the Association . . . and ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER honored the Bowler's Association and proprietors of bowling establishments in ROCKLAND COUNTY in appreciation for the help extended the cause of retarded children during the past year . . . the "Beat Your Average" tournament proved to be local chapters major fund raising activity . . . and SULLIVAN COUNTY is thinking about a sheltered workshop . . . as are many of the other chapters in the Association . . . isn't that "Little Workshop" exciting in St. Lawrence County . . . Four members from the chapter attended the regional meeting at Rome State School on May 12th . . . "Inspiring" they said . . . Student representatives of High Schools held a teen age dance sponsored by SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER, June 2 . . . Schools promoted the

dance themselves within their organizations and handled advance sale of tickets . . . CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER held a bowling handicap tournament . . . Sanctioned by American Bowling Congress . . . and over in Scotia (SCHENECTADY COUNTY) members of the New York State Ceramic Association, a second annual service project for the benefit of the retarded . . . and, of course, camps, scouting, picnics, etc., still playing around trying to get that Mental Health grant for the day training center . . . at this writing . . . ONEIDA-HERKIMER was just getting over its fund raising drive activities . . . happy to learn that Oneida-Herkimer's share of Rome Air Base Federated Fund Campaign was \$1,629.60, 12% of the money donated in this special appeal . . . This is a far cry from the 2% we received state-wide last year . . . The Lockport Division of the NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER exhibited at the Home-O-Rama at the Willow Street Armory in Lockport . . . Is continuing its school program . . . was interested to learn that S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. NIAGARA FALLS CHAPTER presented the Association with a generous check . . . What is it? Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing of America . . . Dr. Lester Shiff again donated his services for physical examination for campers . . . This was his fourth year . . . regrettable that the application of Lockport unit for classroom space was turned down by Board of Education . . . apparently there are no classes available . . . our old friend Norman Bower is President again of Lockport Unit . . . You really should get a copy of the Niagara Chapter newspaper . . .

To all Chapters who have not appeared in this column, it is because you have not sent in your news on time, if at all.

And although you will be receiving this after the summer, it is being written late in June and the Editor takes this opportunity to wish one and all a pleasant, happy, sunburned summer.

Come back refreshed and ready to work again . . .

## NEWARK ATTENDANT WINS PSYCHIATRIC AID AWARD WAGNER MAKES PRESENTATION

Joseph Gullo, one of the attendants at Newark State School, received a 1961 Psychiatric Aide Award sponsored by the National Association for Mental Health.



L. to R. Robert H. Wagner, Dr. Murray Bergman, Assistant Director, Newark State School, and Joseph Gullo.

The award was made by Robert Wagner, former president of the New York State Association of Retarded Children on May 5 at Newark State School.

Mr. Gullo is a native of Newark, New York, and began his services as attendant in 1946. He attended a number of courses and was made a licensed registered nurse in 1950. He was promoted in 1955 to his present position as staff attendant of West Dorm 3. This is one of the most difficult wards in the state school. It has 108 patients in a ward designed for 70. The boys are mildly retarded adolescents, all of whom present psychiatric problems, in addition to the retardation. He has done an outstanding job.



## PROGRESS REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

The May 15, 1962 progress report of the Office of Mental Retardation, Department of Mental Hygiene, shows some interesting new developments.

In the field of community services the report states that the State has approved aid to the Nassau County Mental Health Board for a day training center at the Nassau County Chapter and the Cayuga County Mental Health Board for the Cayuga County Chapter.

At Letchworth Village, Dr. Isaac N. Wolfson reported four years of successful experience with day work programs for Letchworth Village men and women. The report covers a period from June 1957 to June 1961.

Of 376 participating in the program, 189 were released on convalescent care, 41 to their own homes and 148 in employment status. Sixty-two have been subsequently discharged, and many others will be. Only 48 did not adjust to the program. The jobs were primarily unskilled, the women doing housework in private homes and a few employed in nursing homes. Some of the men worked around private homes, but generally they worked in diners and restaurants. Approximately 30% of the 148 placed on their own in the community have been in the institution more than 20 years.

The report also notes that there has been a net increase in resident patients in the institutions of 632, making a total now of 23,325 in residence. This compares with an increase of 492 for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1961; 651 for 1960; and 468 for 1959.

At the West Seneca State School there is much activity in anticipation of the opening in September.

One of the immediate responsibilities is to service the large number of applications being received for admission. Social work staff has been allocated to provide pre-admission counselling to parents and social workers. The training of new ward personnel lacking previous experience will precede the admission of any patients. The first patients will be transferred from the Newark State School.

At Willowbrook State School Dr. Berman reports an immunization program for measles which is a serious disease in an institution population. The study was conducted by the Department of Pediatrics of the New York University School of Medicine, with the cooperation of the Willowbrook medical staff.

In 1960 during an epidemic of measles at Willowbrook, 700 patients contracted the disease and a number died.

Under the new immunization program, over 1100 newly admitted children have been tested for immunity to measles. Less than half were found to be immune and 560 were immunized. In a recent recurrence of measles in the institution, none of the children who were immunized and none of those immunized have had measles, but 32 children whose parents refused immunization became ill with measles.

At Syracuse State School a new half-way house program which is technically a colony with new orientation has been organized. It is for young women with the training and ability to work in the community in jobs other than housework, which has been the customary work for the residents of the colonies for women. The young women assigned to the new Syracuse colony have diversified employment. The first group are working in the housekeeping and dietary department of Syracuse University; in the housekeeping department of a general hospital; and in the alterations room of a department store. A teacher has been assigned part time to continue the education of the young women. The cooperation of the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has been enlisted for the project.

At Newark State School contracts have been approved by the Department of Mental Hygiene in the amount of \$1,555,995 for the construction of a new assembly hall school building and community store. The school has a total of 26 classrooms for educable and trainable children, including six classrooms for vocational education. The assembly hall will seat 1,000. Construction will begin this spring.

## PARENTS MEET WITH MENTAL HYGIENE OFFICIALS

The annual meeting of representatives of the parent's groups in the State Association with Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Arthur Pense head of the office of mental retardation, and representatives of the Department took place in Albany on May 22.

Although the agenda, some five pages in length, closely followed last year's form and items, it was evident from the meeting that a great deal more progress has been made and less time was spent on items of daily living, which had been one of the highlights of the previous meetings.

The agenda included items affecting daily living of the children and services such as development of rehabilitation programs for the adult retardate; a more meaningful program for middle grade children and young adults; new springs and mattresses, black top areas, etc.; items of more general application, such as pre-institutional counselling for parents, the progress on placing children under five, are all children who can profit included in classes, compensation for patients for work done in the State schools; information on specific schools and programs; finally policy questions which included the question of mandatory education in the State schools, installation of ventilating and deodorizing equipment, proper requests by Directors of State schools from parent groups, the relationship between directors and parents groups, and finally can parents groups initiate, with the director's consent, demonstration projects involving engaging of personnel.

Since the minutes of this meeting cover more than 12 single spaced typewritten pages, the results cannot be condensed here without their losing a great deal of their effect.

Copies of the minutes and agenda of this meeting are available by request by writing from the State office 19 Union Square New York 3, N. Y.

Present at the meeting were Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Dr. Arthur Pense, Mr. Charles McAllister, Dr. Joseph Camp, Mr. Harold Abel, Miss Viola McGrath, and Mrs. Saunders all representing the department. For the parents group there were Mrs. James Craig of Erie County for Craig Colony, Mrs. Rita Bottum for Mt. McGregor, Mrs. Gaughan for J. N. Adams, Mrs. James Revelle for the Welfare League, Mr. Bernard Rosenberg Westchester County Chapter, Mr. Craig of Monroe County, Mr. John Ciolino of Erie County, Mr. Harry Resnick, Benevolent Society, Mr. Anastasio for the Community League and Mr. Joseph T. Weingold Executive Director, New York State Association.

## NEW DEPARTMENT ON MENTAL HYGIENE EXHIBIT

### COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTED

An exhibit, describing community services for the retarded which are eligible for State aid under the Community Mental Health Services Act, was shown for the first time at the New York City meeting of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, May 3-5.

This exhibit is available for loans for meetings of local officials and others where its use may encourage the development of local community services. The exhibit has large size illustrations of training center activities. The photographs were taken by the Department of Mental Hygiene photographer with the cooperation of the trainees and their parents, and the staffs of the Nassau County Chapter Association of Retarded Children Center at Brookville and the New York City A.R.C. Occupational Center on East Fifth Street in New York.

A new pamphlet has also been prepared, as discussed elsewhere in this issue for distribution at the exhibit.



## SOCIAL SECURITY PROVIDES FOR RETARDED

At the Southeast Region Conference of the Association held in New York on May 12 Mr. Arthur E. Hess, Assistant Director of the Social Security Administration, brought out a number of facts concerning childhood disability benefits for the mentally retarded.

Physically or mentally disabled adult sons and daughters, he said, of disabled, retired, or deceased workers insured under the Social Security Program may be entitled to childhood disability benefits if they:

Became disabled before 18 years of age.

Are so severely disabled that they are unable to do any substantial work for pay.

Are single when benefits start.

Children under 18 who have been receiving Social Security Benefits may continue to receive them after age 18 if they meet the requirements listed above.

The disabled child (adult son or daughter) may be the natural child, the adopted child or a stepchild of the worker. In the case of adoption, benefits may begin with the month the adoption becomes final. In the case of a stepchild, the parent must be married to the worker for at least a year before the child becomes eligible for benefits.

The applicant, or the person applying in his behalf, will be asked to obtain medical evidence supporting the claim of disability.

Usually the family's doctor's report or medical and psychological records from hospitals or institutions where the applicant received care or treatment are sufficient.

Social security benefits are based on the average monthly earnings of the insured worker. The amount of the benefit payments for each child (regardless of age) is generally 75 per cent of the worker's benefit in death cases, and 50% if the parent is receiving old age or disability insurance benefits. The mother, if the disabled adult son or daughter is in her care, may be entitled to mother's benefits.

Childhood disability benefits under the social security disability program may be paid directly to the beneficiary or to someone else with responsibility for using the benefits in his best interest.

In selecting a representative payee, a member of the immediate family is chosen whenever possible.

## INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR RETARDED

Since there has been a good deal of question as to when a parent may claim an institutionalized retarded child as a dependent for income tax purposes, this matter was cleared with our legal committee who made the following statement.

Parents of minor children in state institutions should look into the matter of Allowance of Deductions for Personal Exemptions under Section 151 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Under previous rulings of the IRB, a minor child could be taken as a \$600 deduction in the Federal income tax return of the parent, if such child was actually receiving more than one-half his support from the parent. Since 1960 the room, board and tuition provided by a State institution has been regarded as a scholarship grant and not considered in determining the amount of support contributed by the parent if the child qualified as a student in a program of regular training or instruction under a recognized curriculum.

Revenue Ruling 61-186, IRB, 1961 removes the requirement that only those mentally retarded children in institutions enrolled in and regularly attending classes under a recognized curriculum might qualify as students for the purpose of this special support test. By the new ruling "where a state institution certifies that it is making an effort to educate or train the child . . . the child will qualify as a student under Section 151 (e) (4) of the Code."

All the State schools for the mentally retarded in New York State qualify under this ruling and Superintendents have been instructed the proper certification form may be furnished parents upon request.

## MENTAL RETARDATION ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND WELFARE

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has just issued a public report in which it predicts that unless major advances are made in the field of mental retardation there will be one million more mentally retarded persons in the United States population by 1970.

In the report, Secretary Ribicoff describes mental retardation as a challenge to society, "to find causes, to seek prevention," and to provide assurances that mentally retarded persons can live lives of "maximum contribution."

The 77 page document—"Mental Retardation"—explains the scope of the problem and summarizes present Federal activities designed to cope with the problems of the more than 5 million persons in the United States now classified as mentally retarded.

The report cites 8 basic approaches which it calls the national effort "to meet the problems of mental retardation." They are:

1. Diagnostic and clinical services
2. Care in residential institutions
3. Special education
4. Parent counseling
5. Social Services
6. Vocational rehabilitation
7. Preparation of professional personnel
8. Research

Among major efforts of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, cited in the report, is the Collaborative Perinatal Research Project being conducted by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. Begun more than 5 years ago, the project is seeking clues to the causes of mental retardation and other disorders of childhood and infancy. Teams of researchers in some 15 medical centers throughout the country are studying expectant mothers from early pregnancy through labor and delivery and are examining their babies periodically from birth through school age.

The report points out that President Kennedy's 1963 fiscal year budget request totals more than \$28 million for programs dealing with mental retardation, more than double the amount spent in 1957.

The report may be purchased from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The price is 50 cents.

## PRACTICAL NURSE SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

The establishment of a school for practical nursing by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene was announced by Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene. The first class of approximately 35 began last fall.

The school, which is located at Willowbrook State School, Staten Island, will provide a 12-month course in the techniques of elementary nursing, according to Dr. Hoch. On completion of the course graduates will be eligible for the New York State licensing examination for practical nursing.

Priority will be given to department employees who have been associated for more than a year with one of the six state schools for the retarded. Courses meet the requirements of the New York State Education Department and cover such subjects as fundamentals of nursing, common diseases, mother and child relationships, chronic and convalescent patients. Students will affiliate at a local Staten Island general hospital.

Establishment of the school at Willowbrook was made with the cooperation of Dr. Harold H. Berman, director. Mary Kelly is the principal.



## INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS FOR STATE SCHOOLS

Governor Rockefeller's Budget which was approved by the Legislature makes, among others, the following specific additional provisions for the programs of the mentally retarded in the Department of Mental Hygiene.

553 new attendant positions have been approved, costing \$1,885,730, to provide better care for the severely retarded over 10 years of age requiring total physical care. The number of new positions by institution is Letchworth Village 115; Newark State School 79; Rome State School 104; Wassaic State School 127; Willowbrook State School 129.

\$153,606 more than the previous fiscal year has been provided for improved clothing in the state schools.

\$5,500,000 appropriated for the Institute for Research in Mental Retardation on Staten Island.

\$2,000,000 has been appropriated to commence construction at the institution to be built at Wilton in Saratoga County (Mt. McGregor).

Addition approval to plan the following facilities at existing institutions have been given: At Letchworth Village, a Medical-surgical-reception building and a school building; at Rome State School a Medical-surgical-reception building; and at Willowbrook a school building.

## "TWISTING SUCCESS"

### ANNUAL MASQUERADE BALL AT LETCHWORTH VILLAGE

On Monday evening, April 16th, the children of Letchworth Village were once again privileged to attend their Annual Masquerade Ball. The ball was held in Kirkbride Hall which was tastefully decorated. The costumes worn by the participants were colorful and original. Most of the costumes were made by the children with the assistance of the matrons.



This is Twisting: children at Letchworth.

A competent professional orchestra provided the music for dancing and a professional dance team from the White Plains Arthur Murray Studios performed exhibitions and joined the dancing with some of the children.

Prizes for original costumes and the presence of the dance team were results of gifts from the Welfare League for Retarded Children-Letchworth Village Chapter of the State Association. Dr. Isaac N. Wolfson, Director of Letchworth Village and members of his staff were the judges, together with Mrs. Leonie Isear, Mrs. Frieda Greenbaum and Mrs. Sidney Finck.

## WHO WAS LETCHWORTH?

Many thousands of mentally retarded have passed through Letchworth Village in the last fifty years. Thousands of parents are intimately concerned with what goes on at that institution. It might be of interest to all to know something about the man after whom Letchworth Village was named.

William Pryor Letchworth died December 1, 1910, at the age of 87. He had been the first president, in 1900, of the New York State Conference of Charities and Correction, now known as the State Welfare Conference.

William Letchworth was born in Brownville, New York, May 26, 1823. His business career was in the mercantile field, chiefly in the city of Buffalo. It was so successful that he retired in 1873.

Two places in New York State now bear his name and are "memorials" to two of his great interests after retirement. In April, 1873, he was appointed by Gov. John A. Dix as Commissioner of the State Board of Charities for the eighth judicial district. He was elected vice president in 1874, serving until 1878 when he was elected president. He continued in that office until 1889.

While connected with the State Board of Charities, Mr. Letchworth's personal work was "monumental in scope, radical in results and permanent in effects." His first effort was to secure the removal of children from almshouses and to prevent by legislative act their future reception and retention there. He also undertook the improvement of the insane. He was a member of the commission to select the location of what is now St. Lawrence State Hospital at Ogdensburg.

Letchworth Village, one of six institutions in the state for the mentally retarded, has borne that name since 1909 when the former "Eastern New York State Custodial Asylum" in Rockland County was renamed in his honor.

Letchworth published a large volume, "The Insane in Foreign Lands" in 1889 and in 1900 a companion volume, "Care and Treatment of Epileptics". He took an active part with Commissioner Craig in securing the law creating the colony for epileptics, "Craig Colony", at Sonyea.

In 1895 after 23 years of public service, he resigned to devote his time to the final disposition of his estate. He developed his home in Wyoming county at the "Middle Falls" on the Genesee river, naming it "Glen Iris". He improved a large tract of land, preserving the natural scenery and also collected and preserved many Indian relics and built a museum for their display.

To insure that all this estate be preserved from possible encroachment of commercial or industrial interests, Letchworth by a deed of gift, subject to his life use, in December 1906, transferred it to the State of New York. It is known as Letchworth Park.

## TESTING FOR PKU IN SULLIVAN COUNTY

### AHRC CHAPTER SLATES TESTS

The Sullivan County Chapter of the Association has voted to sponsor screening tests of infants in two local hospitals to prevent any occurrence of mental retardation.

Members voted recently to underwrite for one year proposed PKU testing of infants at Monticello and Liberty Maimonides hospitals. The offer will be made to the medical board of each hospital.

PKU tests—also known as phenylalanine screening method—were developed recently to detect birth defects that could lead to mental retardation.

If such defects are found, a special diet is prescribed to prevent retardation. The federal government recently authorized funds for 400,000 such tests through the children's bureau.

The Association voted to use its own funds to conduct the tests on every newborn child at the two public hospitals.



# SEEN AT TEACHERS CONFERENCE



Some of the "brass" L. to R. Mabel Talbot; Dorothy Buehring; Phoebe Lazarus, Elkin Snyder, and Lou Rosenzweig.



Sylvia Schachter and Syd Safier of New York City Chapter greeting registrants.



More interested participants, Winifred Femiani (in white hat) and others taking it all in.



Charles McAllister and friends having lunch.

## JERVIS APPOINTED RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF KENNEDY FOUNDATION

The appointment of Dr. George A. Jervis as Research Director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation was announced on April 22, 1962, by Edward M. Kennedy, president of the Foundation and R. Sargent Shriver, Jr., Executive Director. Dr. Jervis was recently appointed director of the New York State Research Institute for Mental Retardation and was a member of the Scientific Research Advisory Board of N.A.R.C. since its inception.

In 1963, the Kennedy Foundation will begin disbursement of a quarter of a million dollars annually through a program of International Awards in Mental Retardation. It is this program to further understanding, treatment and prevention of mental retardation with which Dr. Jervis will be concerned. He and a number of distinguished authorities will analyze and screen nominations for the awards.

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation was established by Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr., father of the President, as a memorial to his eldest son, who was killed in action in World War II. In the past ten years, the Foundation has granted more than \$16,500,000 for efforts in the field of mental retardation, in memory of Joseph P. Kennedy Jr.'s abiding affection for children, and in recognition of the appallingly high frequency and tragic effects of mental retardation.

## MAYO SPEAKS ON NON-MEDICAL PREVENTION

### HEAD OF PRESIDENT'S PANEL ASKS FOR BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

The chairman of President Kennedy's Panel on Mental Retardation, addressing the convention of the American Association on Mental Deficiency at the Statler Hilton Hotel in May of this year, said that the improvement of social conditions would help reduce the number of mildly retarded persons in this country.

Leonard Mayo, told the convention that country-wide hearings on retardation had made several things manifestly clear to him. One, he said, is that retardation in many children is predetermined because they lack the environment to stimulate normal development. If the country is interested in helping this group of youngsters — perhaps as many as 1,000,000 under 21 years of age — three needs must be met, he said. These were:

Improvement of physical environment through slum clearance, urban redevelopment and other means of bettering living conditions.

Funds to help public and private agencies in health, mental hygiene, education and welfare to assist families that are "culturally and spiritually impoverished."

New opportunities for retarded children in schools, recreation facilities and all other guidance and vocational services to give them maximum opportunities for development of the resources they possess.

For the severely retarded, Mr. Mayo said, there must be increased emphasis on basic and clinical research in biological and behavioral sciences.



## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

### LAG ON RETARDED

#### SERVICES SLOW TO DEVELOP

Figures for the year 1961 reveal that only little over 1% of the total expenditures under the Community Mental Health Services Act have gone for services for the mentally retarded.

Gross expenditures (less receipts) in the year 1961 was \$28,870,810. Of this amount, only \$320,078 was spent on the mentally retarded. Most of it was for 12 clinics throughout the State.

This amount is probably increased for the year 1962, since grants have been made for day training services in Nassau and Cayuga counties. Further services might be available in other counties before the year is over, but they will not add appreciably to the amount being spent.

Of the \$28,870,810 being spent, only \$13,866,394 comes from the State; \$12,787,347 comes from cities or counties; and \$2,217,069 comes from voluntary agencies.

In connection with the expenditures for the mentally retarded, only \$160,039 comes from the State; \$142,555 comes from voluntary agencies; and only \$17,484 comes from the county or other.

There is a degree of cautious optimism on the part of the Association. More aid will be forthcoming shortly for day training centers, but the extremely slow pace for such aid and the red tape involved has led one member of the Board to exclaim, "We hope that some of the children who need the services today, will still be around and alive when some of the county boards get around to helping them."

The Association has always been in favor of much more direct approach to the problem of services for the mentally retarded, through direct relationship between the AHRC Chapters and the State, without the necessity to involve local mental health boards with whom the mentally retarded may not always have the highest priority.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

#### NEW PAMPHLET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE

A folder designed to stimulate development of community services for the mentally retarded has been published by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene.

Entitled "Community Services for the Mentally Retarded", the folder describes outpatient clinics, day training centers for children, day occupation centers for adults, inpatient services in general hospitals, and consultation and education services. These are eligible for state aid under the Community Mental Health Services Act of 1954.

The major message of the publication is that "a comprehensive state program for the mentally retarded can be effective only if there are strong services in the community operated in coordination with the residential services provided by the state."

It is gratifying to the Association that the photographs shown in the folder are those of the clinic of the Flower Fifth Ave. Hospital and the Day Occupation Center for adults operated by the New York City Chapter with a grant from the National Institute for Mental Health. The Flower Fifth Ave. clinic receives some support from the Community Mental Health Board in New York City, but the Occupation Day Center and other services operated by New York City Chapter have never been able to get any financial aid from that organization.

Single copies of the pamphlet may be obtained without charge by writing to the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, Office of Mental Health, Education and Information, 240 State Street, Albany, N. Y.

## "RETARDED NEED RELIGION"

#### PRIEST STRESSES FACT TO PARENTS

Society has the same obligation to the retarded child in the religious field as it does in any other area of life, Father Thomas E. Skinner told members of the Broome County Chapter in a general meeting.

"These children have exactly the same right to an education as the normal child," he said. "Society has an obligation to them just as it does to the normal child."

Father Skinner is assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Church in New Hartford.

He earned the nickname, "The Retarded Priest", for his work with retarded children in the New Hartford parish, and is the author of a simplified Catechism for retarded children that can be obtained from this State office.

"There is a vacuum in the lives of retarded children that can be filled only by religion," Father Skinner said. "They need training to understand their relationship to God, whether they are Catholic, Protestant or Jewish."

"Each of us must develop his intelligence and talents to what extent we can, even if we can only learn how to button our clothes, tie shoelaces, and tell if the traffic light is red or green."

Since religious classes for retarded children were started in St. John's Church in 1956, 26 children have been confirmed and 16 have taken their First Communion. Another 2 will take First Communion next month, and two more will be ready by next fall.

Lutherans are ahead of other Protestant denominations in providing religious training for retarded children, Father Skinner said. Jews have a "great program" in New York City, he said.

Father Skinner added that religious instruction has little effect before the age of 11, because the retarded child does not seem mature enough before that age. Small classes and simplified wording are also helpful he said.

Love is the major requirement for teachers who give religious instruction to retarded children. The teacher must be able to reach the children and help them to associate the voice with the personality.

## CHILDREN'S COURT JUDGE NAMED CHAIRMAN OF DRIVE

The committee in charge of the annual drive for the Help of Retarded Children has announced that Charles S. Ringwood, judge of the Warren County Children's Court will serve as honorary chairman of this year's drive being conducted by Glens Falls Council, 417, United Commercial Travelers.

In accepting the chairmanship, Judge Ringwood stated, "I am most happy to be associated with this most worthy cause. I want to commend the members of the U. C. T. for taking such an active part in trying to aid the many children and adults suffering from mental retardation. During the time I have served as judge of the Children's Court I have been brought face to face with overwhelming problems facing these parents of retarded children. Contrary to early thinking institutional care is not always the best solution. Today we find in many cases home care is producing excellent results."

As a result of legislation introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee last year and passed, the judges of the Children's Court now have the opportunity to order services other than institutionalization for the mentally retarded.

At the office of the association, Joseph T. Weingold, executive director, stated that Judge Ringwood is an old friend of the association and that all of us are happy to see him so actively engaged in the work of the United Commercial Travelers and our Upper Hudson Chapter.



## AT THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER DINNER



Some of the Dais and Guests:

On Dais: L. to R. Joseph T. Weingold, Neil Lieblich and Msgr. Fogarty. Among the guests: Mrs. Alex Russotto, Jonathan and Mrs. Weingold.



L. to R. Dr. Arthur Pense, Head, Office of Mental Retardation, presenting award to Atty. Gen. Louis Lefkowitz.

## UPPER HUDSON COUNTY CHAPTER DIVIDES TWO NEW CHAPTERS FORMED

The Warren-Washington and Saratoga County Chapters are replacing the former Upper Hudson chapter of the State Association, which formerly served Warren, Washington and Saratoga counties.

Sidney Van Dusen, Glens Falls, was elected president of the new Warren-Washington Chapter and William Patten of Saratoga was chosen the leader of the Saratoga County Chapter.

This division of the Upper Hudson Chapter was necessitated by the growing strength of the movement in these counties making it unfeasible to develop programs in any one location that could serve the needs of the mentally retarded in all three counties. It is planned, with this division, to have programs more locally placed.

Our old friends of Upper Hudson Chapter and others are welcomed under their new names.

## NEW BABIES BUILDING AT LETCHWORTH VILLAGE

An inquiry from Bernard Rosenberg, former president of our Westchester County Chapter and former member of the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village, brought the response from Dr. Arthur W. Pense, Head of the Office of Mental Retardation, that an appropriation of \$1,400,000 has been made to construct a building for not less than 100 infants at Letchworth Village.

"Although there may not have been any apparent action on this subject," writes Dr. Pense, "the proposition has been under consideration from various angles for sometime. The original plan to build a separate building near the existing hospital building ran into site difficulties. Some consideration was given to using the hospital building for infants, but it was finally decided that it would be better to construct a new medical center for the institution consisting of a medical-surgical reception building and adjoining infants building similar to those planned for the West Seneca State School. The hospital building will also be available for infirm cases including possibly young children. The final proposal has been approved by the Division of the Budget for architectural planning and the Department hopes that an appropriation for the two buildings will be forthcoming in 1962."

"The new building," writes Dr. Pense, "including the medical-surgical building, will fill a great need at Letchworth Village."

## TEMPORARY CARE OF RETARDED IN ENGLAND

### HOSPITAL PAEDIATRIC UNITS EMPLOYED

To enable parents to take holidays, more than 60 mentally defective children have been given temporary care on the children's wards of Whittington Hospital during summer months of the past 3 years, according to an article in Lancet in March 1962 by Simon Yudkin and Joyce B. Burke.

This program has been going on for the past three years. Replies to a questionnaire follow-up indicated that parents benefitted from the children's stay in the hospital and that parents of other children on the wards did not object to the plan.

The program has been most suitable for the severely subnormal and bedridden mentally retarded. Discussed in the article are administration of the program, attitudes of parents, experiences in hospital care of the mentally retarded and benefits to nursing and medical personnel in the hospital.

### REGULATIONS (Continued from page One)

"6. The patient's position on the waiting list will be maintained and the patient will be admitted to the appropriate State institution when the name is reached. State payments for the temporary care at the facility will cease at this time."

"7. Payment for services shall be made in accordance with procedures established by the Department. Parents will be requested to specify what they can pay of the total cost of care which amount they will pay directly to the facility."

"8. Payment will not be made for care prior to the date of written authorization by the Department."

"9. Payments to general hospitals will be in accordance with the current schedule of Hospital Rates promulgated to govern payments by public agencies from State funds to general hospitals."

"10. Payments to other facilities shall be at a rate not higher than that charged to a welfare department for the same service for the care of similar children from the same county."



# STATE CONVENTION PROGRAM

## THURSDAY, October 4, 1962

- 1:00 P. M. Meeting Chapter Executive Directors  
8:00 P. M. Meeting Board of Governors

## FRIDAY, October 5, 1962

- 10:00 A. M. Registration. All day  
12:00 NOON Luncheon—Meeting of Workshop Directors  
1:30-4:30 P. M. Tours—Mt. McGregor  
5:30 P. M. Social Hour  
6:30 P. M. Dinner  
8:00 P. M. Convention convenes

1960 White House Conference Recommendations  
What New York is Doing — Division of Youth of N. Y. State  
SATURDAY, October 6, 1962

- 8:00 A. M. President's Breakfast (Chapter Presidents and Executive Directors) "Leadership Development"  
9:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M. Registration  
10:00 A. M. to 12:30 P. M. Business Session  
12:45 P. M. to 1:45 P. M. Luncheon—open  
2:00 P. M. - 4:00 P. M. Concurrent Workshops

1. **CHAPTER BUDGET PREPARATION**—Chairman: Max W. Schachter, Treas. State Association. Joseph Abissi: Preparing a budget for Community Chests.

2. **APPLICATIONS FOR DAY TRAINING CENTER GRANTS**—Chairman: Helen Kaplan, Nassau County; Vernon Madden, Onondaga County; Clyde E. Bay, Cayuga County.

3. **STARTING AND FINANCING SHELTERED WORKSHOPS**—Chairman: Paul Hermon, Fulton County; C. Leonard Muskin, Nassau; Roger Vandenberg, Oneida-Herkimer.

4. **RECREATION AND REHABILITATION IN STATE SCHOOLS**—Chairman: Charles McAllister, Dept. Mental Hygiene; Anthony Lombardo, Nassau County; Meyer Shreiber, NYC Chapter. Others to be announced.

4:30 - 5:30 P. M. General Business Session

6:30 P. M. Reception

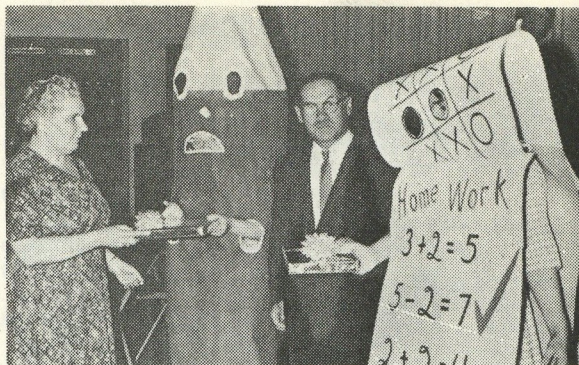
7:00 P. M. Banquet—Dr. Elizabeth Boggs, main speaker: "The President's Panel on Mental Retardation".

Installation of Directors and officers

10:00 P. M. Dancing

## SUNDAY, October 7, 1962

- 9:30 A. M. - 11:30 A. M. Convention Reconvenes  
11:30 - 12:00 NOON Board of Governors Meeting  
Adjournment



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The following letter was sent to the National Association for Retarded Children and forwarded to this office. It is a moving document and may well be some indication for the future care of Mongoloid babies.*

Dear Sir:

I hope I'm not taking up your valuable time. I really don't have much of a problem now but in later months it might run into a little difficulty. My story starts from the beginning:

Three weeks ago Monday the Chemung County Welfare called and asked me if I would like to take care of a Mongoloid baby? I asked: "what's that?" The worker told me a little and I said yes. When I got her she was a skinny little girl, under weight covered with heat rash and on a ridiculous formula of condensed milk and molasses. Doctor Bartlett in Horseheads said he never heard of such a thing. I couldn't see anything wrong with her except slanted eyes and odd shaped head.

Right away I started asking questions and trying to find out all I could about Mongoloids. I asked my milkman and he brought me your inspiring book "Angel Beware". I never read such a wonderful story. That is why I'm writing to your organization.

I have an eleven month old daughter of my own and she likes the baby. What I would like to know is what to expect out of her when she grows up and what to watch for. Also will she reject my daughter if she gets more attention? She is two months old and as long as you keep her clean, fed and show her that you love her she is a very good baby.

Will you please send me all the information you can about Mongoloid Babies? Thank you very much for taking the time to read my story.

Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. Harold J. Schultz Jr.

**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.**

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