

# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*

*Can Be Helped!*



VOL. XVIII, ISSUE NO. 2

AUGUST, 1965

## SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### STATE PLANNING NEARS FIRST YEAR COMPLETION

#### STATE ASSOCIATION ISSUES SIX POSITION PAPERS

After a number of meetings of the ten regional committees and the 12 Task Forces of the State Planning Committee on Mental Retardation, preliminary consideration was given to more than 300 recommendations for a comprehensive program for the mentally retarded. These were discussed at a meeting of the Executive Committee in Albany on March 23rd.



Discussing mental retardation proposals are (l.-r.) Jay S. Schleichkorn, executive director, United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State; Dr. Royal Davis of the New York Academy of General Practice; Joseph T. Weingold, executive director, N.Y.S. Association for Retarded Children; Frances Connor, Ed.D., Head Dept. of Special Ed. Teachers College, Col. U.; and Ralph W. Colvin, Ph.D., director of research, Kennedy Center for Retarded Children.

The full State-wide Planning Committee met in Saratoga at the Holiday Inn on June 20th to the 22nd to review the first draft of the State-wide Plan.

From the Association, or closely connected with it, were Mrs. Ruth Gross, President; Robert Wagner, former President; Sidney Van Dusen, former Vice-President and member of the Board of Governors; Tom Scholl of Oswego County; Prof. Chris De Prospro of Nassau; Dr. Joseph Wortis of Brooklyn; Helen Kaplan of Nassau County; Dr. William T. Fraenkel of New York City Chapter; and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the State Association.

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### INSURANCE AND DEMONSTRATION BILLS SIGNED REIMBURSEMENT BILL VETOED

Of 14 bills introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap, affecting the mentally retarded, ten were passed by the legislature that ended in June.

Of these, the Governor signed four and vetoed five. The tenth bill, an amendment to the Constitution, did not need the Governor's signature.

The success of the legislative program was considerably hampered by the Governor's veto of the bill limiting the liability of relatives for reimbursement for patients in the state schools for the mentally retarded.

This measure is discussed in a separate article in this issue of O. C. V.

The bills signed were: The Demonstration Project for Vocational Rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded Adults in rural areas and the establishment of a residence center in conjunction with this; the Insurance Bill; an amendment to the Public Health Law that no child shall be deprived of services under the Crippled Children's provisions solely by reason of the degree of its mental retardation; and finally, the bill that "under-achievers" or pupils who fail in school shall be tested under regulations to be written by the Commissioner of Education to ascertain the reasons for such failure and to make provisions to remedy them.

The bills vetoed were: The reimbursement bill; the bill that mentally retarded accused of crimes be treated as youthful offenders regardless of age; the provision under the Education Law that school districts approached for contract by other school districts having less than the required number of mentally retarded pupils must accept such pupils if they have room; the bill that mandates education for the mentally retarded in the state schools from the ages of 5 to 21, as now mandated for these children if they were in the community; and finally the bill that would permit the Board of Visitors to a state school to choose one or more of its members to sit in on all investigations of alleged acts of brutality in the state schools.

The bill for a demonstration vocational rehabilitation project for retarded adults from rural areas together with a residential center was signed the third time around. It will provide for vocational rehabilitation for mentally retarded adults, probably from Northern Westchester, Rockland and Putnam, and a residence center that would be operated by the Department of Mental Hygiene where these youngsters could live five days a week while receiving vocational training.

The Insurance bill is extremely important for the parents and children. It provides that any family contract for hospitalization and health insurance shall include mentally or physically handicapped children incapable of being self

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STATE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 14 TO 17th SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK



## 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: RUTH GROSS

Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

### A FRIGHTENING CONCEPT

Governor Rockefeller has vetoed the bill that would limit the liability of relatives of patients in state schools for the mentally retarded to the first aggregate five years of residence or until the age of 21.

In vetoing the bill, the Governor has enunciated a concept that must horrify all concerned with the institutional care and treatment of the mentally retarded and mentally ill.

Simply, he states that the fees from patients in the Department of Mental Hygiene institutions must be maintained because the bankers who have underwritten the Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund bonds so insist.

This fund was set up when the Governor was still committed to the defunct pay-as-you-go theory of state financing. Its aim was to avoid the issuance of the Mental Hygiene bonds (already authorized by the people and of which \$180 million was available) for construction of Mental Hygiene facilities.

In a letter to Mrs. Gross, the Governor states, "The bond holders have been assured that the revenue structure necessary to pay the bonds will not be impaired."

Even more frightening than the bald fact that we are prisoners of the bankers in determining social policies is the implication that our institutions must be kept filled to maintain the fee structure.

The argument will be made by the Department of Mental Hygiene that the physician who has authority over discharge does not know whether the patient is paying or not. We submit, that this is balder-dash; that policies are made from Albany in this respect and not on the local scene.

We will not go into the fact that New York charges the highest rate per month in the nation, \$210, a month, but is way down among the states in the amount spent on each patient; that the average fee for families with \$5,000 gross income is \$30 to \$50 per month; or that never before in all social history have those afflicted been forced to pay for the construction of facilities for themselves and future patients.

We do view with horror, as should all those in psychiatry and related field, this concept that, consciously or unconsciously, will militate against the movement away from institutions and towards community care.

Under Federal grants and laws, we are now engaged in state planning for the mentally retarded and the mentally ill. Members of this Association are on the Committees for both. All our deliberations stress community care and ways of avoiding institutions.

Can we carry on in good conscience, when the Governor so boldly says that fees must be kept high and implies that institutions must be kept full?

We submit that the cost of construction of Mental Hygiene facilities and care of the mentally retarded and mentally ill should be a charge against the whole community, not only those afflicted or their relatives. The people have always generously voted bond issues for this purpose. \$180 million of an original bond issue has not yet been utilized.

(Continued Next Column)

## SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

Approximately 120,000 mental retardates over 18 years of age now are receiving Social Security benefits under a program for adults disabled in childhood. To be eligible for such benefits, the disabled retardate must be the child of a parent who has worked in employment covered by social security and who has retired, died, or has himself become disabled.

To be found to be disabled, the person must be unable to do any substantial gainful work; this must be due to an impairment which can be found by doctors; and the impairment cannot in the foreseeable future be so diminished by treatment that he can do substantial gainful work.

When a parent who has worked in employment covered by social security retires, dies, or becomes disabled, his children under 18 may be eligible for benefits, whether they are disabled or not. Generally this stops when the child reaches the age of 18.

If a seriously retarded child under 18 is already receiving child's benefits, the social security should be informed about his condition at least 3 months before he reaches 18. If it is determined that the child is disabled within the meaning of the social security law, his benefits can be continued when he reaches 18 without any interruption.

The person 18 or over who has only slight mental retardation and can do gainful work is not eligible for social security benefits.

The mother of a disabled child beneficiary may also be eligible for monthly payments for as long as the child is in her care, regardless of her own age or her child's.

Payments are also made if the adult beneficiary disabled in childhood is in an institution.

Further details are contained in two pamphlets recently distributed by the Social Security Administration. They are:

"Social Security: What it means for the parents of a Mentally Retarded Child."

"Social Security Benefits For Adults Disabled in Childhood."

Both may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

(Most of the above information was contained in Action Bulletin, Issue No. 75, from the National Association for Retarded Children.)

### DR. GIANNINI APPOINTED TO CONSULTANT POST

Dr. Margaret J. Giannini, Associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at New York Medical College and director of the Mental Retardation Center at Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, has been appointed special consultant to the National Institute of Health's mental retardation unit.

Head of the clinic since its inception in 1951, Dr. Giannini is widely recognized as a leading expert in her field. She has made major contributions into the planning and implementing of new approaches to the treatment and care of the retarded.

### FRIGHTENING (Continued)

If pay-as-you-go has been abandoned, then the Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund should go.

It serves no useful purpose now; in fact, it is a deterrent to action.

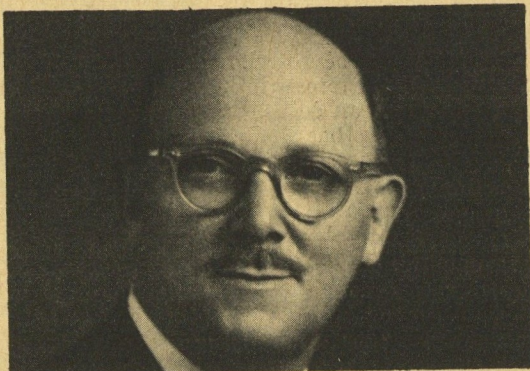
Certainly, if it brings in its wake the philosophy stated by the Governor, it is even dangerous.

The California decision in *California vs. Kirchner*, that fees charged in mental hygiene facilities are unconstitutional, violating the equal protection clause of the California Constitution (almost identical with our own) should be a warning to our own officials.



## SENATOR HARRY KRAF NEW JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

At an organizing meeting for the Joint Legislative Committees of the Legislature, Senator Harry Kraf (Democrat-Bronx) was appointed chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap, it was announced by Senator Joseph Zaretsky, President Protem of the Senate.



Senator Harry Kraf

Senator Harry Kraf has been a prominent member of the Committee for a number of years. He has authored many of the important pieces of legislation introduced at the request of the Committee.

This year Senator Kraf was the author of the bill to relieve relatives of some of the burden of reimbursement for patients in state schools. He also authored the bill to create a demonstration vocational rehabilitation facility for young adults for the rural area together with a residential center.

Senator Kraf plans a series of meetings of the Joint Legislative Committee and its advisory council to shape plans for legislation for the coming year.

"I also intend," said Senator Kraf, "to go deeply into the question of implementation of existing legislation which in many instances has lagged."

He added that he hoped we could get very close communication with the Administration to prevent the disproportionate number of vetoes the Committee has incurred on bills introduced through it.

Other members of the Committee are: Assemblyman Stanley Steingut (D.-Kings), Vice Chairman; Sen. Wm. T. Conklin (R.-Kings), Secretary; Sen. Julian B. Erway (D.-Albany); Sen. Max B. Berking (D.-Westchester); Assemblyman John B. Cosgrove (D.-Oneida); Assemblyman James J. Barry (D.-Onondaga); and Assemblyman Ed J. Amann, Jr. (R.-Richmond).

## KENNEDY GRANT TO N.Y.C. CHAPTER

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation has awarded the New York City Chapter of the Association a grant to help expand the Associations Summer Day Camp Program for 1965 and 1966.

Approximately 40 retarded Queens borough children, ranging from age eight to thirteen, will benefit from this program.

It will be operated at the Samuel Fields YM-YWHA at 5820 Little Neck Parkway in Little Neck.

This summer day camp grant is one of two the Foundation has awarded to agencies in New York State.

The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation has awarded grants for varied programs and services in the field of mental retardation throughout the country for the past several years.

## ADMISSIONS TO STATE SCHOOLS SHOW CONTINUING RISE

In contrast to the state hospitals for the mentally ill, admissions to the state schools for the mentally retarded have been rising annually.

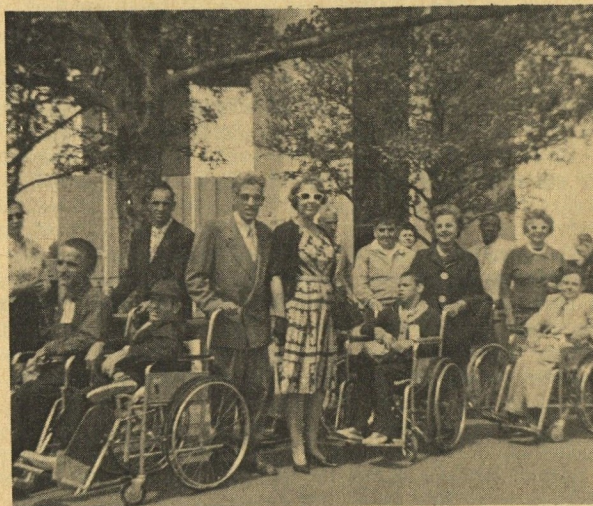
In the past year, the number of residents increased by 482 from 26,962 to 27,444, which is somewhat less than the increase for the foregoing years, but "the rate of turnover of patients in the state schools is decreasing," according to Dr. Christopher Terrence, Acting Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

"The estimate for the future course of patient population based on present trends," Dr. Terrence concluded, "is still essentially the same as it has been for the past several years; that is, a continued gradual decrease in the state hospital resident population, but a continued increase in the rate at which patients move through these facilities; in the state schools, a decrease in turnover, but a continued increase in resident patients due primarily to increased survival and retention in resident facilities of the more severely retarded."

A spokesman for the Association added that this retention in the state schools for the mentally retarded is also due partially to the fact that rehabilitation programs of the state schools have lagged. Thus many mentally retarded who could be in the community if they were rehabilitated and the facilities for living in the community were provided, remain in the institutions unnecessarily.

Another spokesman for the Association stated that perhaps the reluctance of the directors of the state schools to relinquish the higher functioning retarded is due to the fact that they contribute so much to the economy of the institution without being reimbursed.

## OPERATION WHEELCHAIR



On May 24th, a first was accomplished very successfully by Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter. Sixteen wheel chair patients and sixteen ambulatory patients were brought to the World's Fair by bus. This was a milestone in recreation projects, most of the wheel chair patients had never been out of Letchworth Village, and the ride on the bus, and the various buildings we took them too, brought them indescribable joy. Refreshments and souvenirs were purchased for all the boys and men. Shown are Mrs. Leonie Isear, Chairman of Welfare League's Recreation, with volunteers, members of Welfare League; Mrs. Sidney Finck and Mrs. Abe Feldman.

COME TO SARATOGA SPRINGS — STATE CONVENTION — HOLIDAY, INN —



# REIMBURSEMENT BILL VETOED

## FEES MUST BE KEPT HIGH — GOVERNOR BANKERS INSIST

# ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH GOVERNOR



Ruth Gross, president, and Jerry Weingold, executive director of the State Association, met with Governor Rockefeller during the legislative session to present the Association's views. "We can only judge the Governor's intentions by the bills he signs," said Mrs. Gross. L. to R. Sen. Wm. T. Conklin, the Governor, Mrs. Gross and Weingold.

## REIMBURSEMENT (Continued)

"May 27, 1965

"Dear Mrs. Gross:

"I am sorry this note has been so long delayed after my conversation with you, but I did want to tell you again how much I regret having to make the decision to veto the bill that would have limited the liability of relatives for the care of patients in our State schools for the mentally retarded. I certainly appreciate your concern and interest and understand your position.

"The Housing Finance Agency, however, which sold \$24 million of mental hygiene construction bonds on May 19, 1965, was notified in writing by representatives of the bond purchasers which bid the very favorable interest rate of 3.52 per cent, of their right to withdraw their bid if this bill, that would have limited the liability of relatives of the mentally retarded, became law. Consequently, I could not afford to jeopardize the success of an important part of our \$500 million mental hygiene construction program by signing the bill.

"You are aware of, and, I am certain, are in sympathy with my announced objective of our imaginative, five-year construction program to provide vastly more and improved facilities to carry out modern concepts for the care and treatment of the mentally ill and the mentally retarded. This construction is urgently needed and I have pledged that it will be accomplished.

"The bonds which will be necessary to finance this accelerated program are, as you know, to be paid from patients' reimbursement. I was greatly concerned that this bill which would have reduced revenues to repay the bonds and interest by \$2.2 million could place the entire reimbursement program in jeopardy with an eventual possible loss in revenue of more than \$50 million.

"I have a public commitment and a personal interest in the mental hygiene construction program. The bondholders have been assured that the revenue structure necessary to pay the bonds will not be impaired. For this reason, I could not in good conscience sign this bill which could possibly prevent us from accomplishing this most worthy objective.

"Thank you for your interest in this important matter. I hope you appreciate my position.

"Sincerely,  
(Signed) "Nelson A. Rockefeller"

The Kraf Di Carlo bill to limit liability of relatives for reimbursement for patients in the state schools for the mentally retarded, introduced at the request of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap, was vetoed by Governor Rockefeller after a bizarre series of events.

The bill, drawn after very careful consideration by the Joint Legislative Committee, provided that liable relatives for patients in state schools for the mentally retarded, pay for the first aggregate five years of residence or until the age of 21.

The bill differed materially from previous bills which had relieved liable relatives of all requirements for payment.

After the bill was initially passed by the legislature with an implementation date of April 1st, 1965, the Governor called the President of our Association, Mrs. Ruth Gross, and informed her that he could not sign the bill this year but would probably sign such a bill next year or the year after.

Upon this statement, the bill was recalled from the Governor and re-introduced with an implementation date of July 1st, 1967. The bill was then passed and sent back to the Governor.

His veto message does not reveal the whole story of the veto, but his letters to Mrs. Gross, and an identical letter to Mr. Weingold, tell the whole story.

The Governor in these letters states that he cannot sign the bill, although he is sympathetic with its aims, because the persons who have underwritten the bonds for the first construction issued by the Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund insist that the bill be vetoed. It is his contention that the bond holders will not honor their commitment to purchase these bonds if the fee structure of the Department of Mental Hygiene is altered in any way.

Although there is a difference of opinion between the Association and the Department of Mental Hygiene as to how much money this bill will cost, the maximum figure fixed by the Governor is \$2,200,000 out of a total revenue this year, as we understand, of almost \$50 million.

As Mrs. Gross pointed out in her letter to the Governor, such a small sum cannot affect the bonds at all. If all the \$500 million worth of bonds were to be issued for construction, the cost of amortization and interest would run to no more than about \$32 million a year.

Apparently, on the insistence of the bankers, however, the Governor vetoed the bill and parents and other relatives must continue to pay for life for services that their children would receive gratis in the community. Among these are education, police protection, fire protection, recreation, and many others.

New York State charges the highest maximum fee in the nation, \$210.00 a month, but justifies this on the basis that it is according to ability to pay.

Not in this statement, however, are the instances where reimbursement agents, not trained in social service, fix fees far out of proportion to the prudent management of the family's income. Frequently, no consideration is given to putting away for a rainy day or for retirement.

The bill will probably be re-introduced next year when, it is hoped, the Governor will feel free to sign it.

The California Supreme Court, equivalent to the Court of Appeals in New York State, have held the California statute very similar to that of New York, un-constitutional on the ground that it violates the equal protection of the law of the Constitution of California. The New York State Constitution is almost identical in this respect.

The Governor's letter and Mrs. Gross' reply follow;—

(Continued Next Column)

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## PROMOTERS OF JOBS FOR HANDICAPPED



Participants in the recent Annual Meeting and Conference of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Bernard Rosenberg, member of the President's Committee and Board of Governors of the State Association, and Harold Russell, Chairman of the President's Committee.

## GOVERNOR TO OPEN JOBS TO RETARDED ORDERS INVENTORY OF POSTS THAT COULD BE HANDLED BY MENTALLY RETARDED

Governor Rockefeller has taken steps to open the state civil service system to mentally retarded youths and adults.

The Governor asked three state-sponsored voluntary agencies to take an inventory of jobs offered by the state government that are within the capabilities of persons with mental disabilities.

He also asked the agencies to develop procedures by which such jobs would be reserved for the retarded and by which the jobs could be distributed among the retarded according to the usual nonpolitical norms of civil service recruitment.

The agencies were commissioned "to study and develop procedures which will result in employment opportunities for the mentally retarded in the state civil service system." They are the Interdepartmental Health and Hospital Council, consisting of executives of state departments, and two citizens groups, the Governor's Council on Rehabilitation and the Governor's Committee on Employ the Handicapped.

Mr. Rockefeller announced the move in an address at the annual luncheon meeting of the Governor's Committee on Employ the Handicapped at the Biltmore Hotel in June.

The meeting was attended by more than 800 business executives, trade union leaders, educators, and citizens active in the movement for aiding the handicapped.

The Governor's announcement was greeted with enthusiasm.

Ground work for the Governor's announcement was laid by the Governor's Council on Rehabilitation which has been advising the extension of the federal civil service program for the mentally retarded with the state level. This program provides for jobs for the mentally retarded without the necessity for written examinations and thus eliminates the greatest stumbling block towards employment of the mentally retarded in civil service jobs.

To implement this recommendation, a meeting was held by the New York State Interdepartmental Health and Hospital Council, under the chairmanship of Miss Janet Pinner, and attended by Jerry Weingold, representing the Governor's Council. It was there pointed out that there are 20,000 state civil service jobs, 9,000 state jobs in the labor category which are non-competitive. The task is to find out which of these jobs the retarded can do in a satisfactory manner, where they are located, and what the existing vacancy and turnover may be.

It was suggested that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation might act as a certifying agency, to evaluate the ability of individual mentally retarded persons to perform the duties required in the specific job vacancies as they occur.

Governor Rockefeller told the committee members that employment of the retarded in civil service "on the basis of the abilities of the retarded to perform skillfully the duties required, would lead the way and set an example for other public and private employers in the nation."

"Short of finding means to prevent all mental retardation," said the Governor, "nothing in this field could be more important than a major assault on the prejudices, misconceptions and ignorance that so often barred the mentally retarded from utilizing productively the capabilities they do have."

On the federal level, the civil service commission has executed written agreements with 35 federal departments and agencies to use the new Schedule A Authority for employment of the mentally retarded. 29 of these agencies have hired 488 mentally retarded applicants as of April 30, 1965.

The greatest number, 118, have, curiously enough, been hired by the Department of the Treasury. The second greatest number, 70, have been hired by the Post Office Department.

## REIMBURSEMENT VETOED (Continued)

Mrs. Gross's answer:

"June 15, 1965

"Dear Governor Rockefeller:

"I appreciate your taking the time and trouble to write me concerning Senate Introductory Bill No. 2541, which would limit the liability of relatives for support of mentally retarded patients in State Schools.

"It would be easy to argue details with you, such as:

"(A)—The loss in revenue would be nearer \$1 million instead of \$2.2 million.

"(B)—That this loss even if \$2.2 million would still leave a revenue of approximately \$30 million ample to cover all interest and amortization on a 30 year bond issue of \$500 million let alone the small amount issued.

"(C)—That the attitude of the bond purchasers is unreasonable and that they could be easily replaced by purchasers who would not object.

"But I think a much larger principle is involved in your stated policy. The bond holders have been assured that the revenue structure necessary to pay the bonds would not be impaired.

"The implications in this statement are rather frightening. Almost express in it is the philosophy that we would keep our institutions filled and fees high in order that the revenue structure necessary to pay the bonds will not be impaired. Are we then frozen at least into the present population in the State Schools and Mental Hospitals? Perhaps, we now can understand why the Department of Mental Hygiene has opposed Senator Kraf's bill to eliminate criminal liability of relatives who do not meet the fees set.

"From the point of view of therapy and rehabilitation, it would be far better to abolish the Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund, if it leads us along the path you indicate. I am sure that the citizens of this State will vote all the bonds you need for construction.

"Sincerely yours,

(Signed) "Ruth Gross  
President"

OCTOBER 14th, 15th, 16th, & 17th



## GRANT'S BREAKTHROUGH: JOBS FOR THE RETARDED

A door has opened for the mentally retarded of America. It is the door to the employees' locker room of one of the largest companies in the country: the W. T. Grant Company.

In a special policy statement to the chain's 1,110 stores, L. C. Lustenberger, president, encouraged his store managers to hire the mentally retarded. Grant's is the first big organization to take that step.

The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped called the policy statement "a milestone in the nation's efforts to open job opportunities for nearly two million retarded people of employable age."

It all came about because of Robert John Patterson, a 17-year-old high school student in Wilmington, Del. Robert, who has been in a class for the educable retarded since he was 15, has for 8 months held down a job as part-time stockboy in Grant's Wilmington store.

Last year, Robert's school supervisor recommended Grant's as a candidate for the first "Employer of the Year Award" given to a business organization by the National Association for Retarded Children, Inc. because the Wilmington store had hired Robert and other mentally retarded persons.

When the Association gave Grant's the recognition, Mr. Lustenberger and his associates wondered a little what they had done. They then examined their policy on the hiring of such individuals and surveyed all 45,000 employees to find out if they had hired any others.

They came up with 50 who held such jobs as bus boy, porter, janitor, sales clerk, dishwasher, food service helper, merchandise marker, and stock-room attendant. The store managers rated 77 per cent as performing well, 9 per cent as excellent.

The five-page policy statement tells how to hire, indoctrinate, train and fire the mentally retarded. The policy emphasizes that the retarded receive no favored treatment except that the store manager should take care to fit the job to the individual and to take some extra care in demonstrating the essentials of the task.

"We discovered," Mr. Lustenberger said, "that the employment of such people, while a social responsibility of business, is likewise good community relations and good business too, for such people may actually be better qualified for certain types of work than are normal individuals."

In addition, Mr. Lustenberger sent copies of his policy statement to 28 companies in New York State employing many thousands of people. Among these are J. C. Penney Company, Genesco, Sears, Roebuck & Co., J. J. Newberry Co, F. W. Woolworth, Montgomery Ward, S. S. Kresge Co, White Tower Management Corp, National Shirt Shops, McCrory, Liggett Drug Co, Lerner Stores, Robert Hall, Grayson Shops, Fanny Farmer Candy Shops, Bickfords, and many others.

## "SO YOU ARE GOING TO SUPERVISE"

A pamphlet recently issued by the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, gives guidelines to persons who are going to supervise mentally retarded employees.

In simple language, it discusses what the retarded are like; what assets they bring to a job; problems they bring to a job; how does a supervisor get ready for the new worker; and finally, how does the supervisor start them on the job.

The pamphlet ends with a number of "Do's" and "Don't's" for supervising a retarded on a job. The whole emphasis of the pamphlet is on treating the retarded as an adult whose handicap may not necessarily be a disability.

Copies may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office or the New York City Office.

## EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

Mr. Fred Gothe, President of Van Buren Automotive Products, Inc. Port Jefferson Station, Long Island, was the winner of the Suffolk County "Employer of the Year" contest, which was awarded "for providing training and job opportunities to the mentally retarded" by the Suffolk County Association at their Fifteenth Annual Dinner on June 8th.



From L. to R. Mr. Edward P. Nelson, President, Huntington Station; Mr. William Spinelli, Distr. Supervisor, State Education Department, Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation, Garden City, presenting Employer of the Year Award to Mr. Fred Gothe, President of Van Buren Automotive Products, Port Jefferson Station.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to the following employers of the handicapped, whose names were submitted to the Selection Committee, headed by Miss Barbara Reuter, Chairman: Mrs. Marjorie McDonald, Marjo Manufacturing Company, Patchogue; Acme Cleaners, Huntington Station; Mr. G. S. Beck, Oscar Heiniman Corporation, Patchogue; Mr. P. Mercurio, Assistant Administrator, Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, Patchogue; Mr. Robert Page, Manager, Acme Markets, Oakdale; Mr. Donald Bilhorn, Director, Mather Memorial Hospital, Port Jefferson; Mrs. Ruth Beitel, W. T. Grant, Patchogue; Mr. Arthur Wolfer, Reflow Knitting Mills, Inc. Patchogue; and Jay Plastics, Patchogue.

Mr. Gothe in accepting the award, said "Not only had he found his retarded employees efficient and loyal, but his intent was to employ more of them on a full time basis."

## WHAT WORK CAN ACCOMPLISH

The following is extracted from the Newsletter from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, "Tips and Trends in the Employment of the Mentally Handicapped".

### "Union Wages"

She couldn't read or write. She didn't even finish special classes for the retarded. Her IQ was 71. Her deformed right arm was practically useless. She had never worked, and spent all her time at home watching TV.

Finally someone put her in touch with the California State Vocational Rehabilitation Service. Rehab. gave her six months of work adjustment at a sheltered workshop, then found her a job as a maid in a hospital in San Francisco. She has been there more than a year; has joined the union; earns \$72 a week.

'You'd never recognize her,' says her counselor. 'She is well-adjusted and quite pleased with her progress in life. A great change has come over her.'

In addressing the National Rehabilitation Association convention in Philadelphia, Dr. Leonard W. Mayo, Vice Chairman, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped said, "The practical dollar-and-cents value of vocational training of high quality for the young retardate is readily seen in the results of a study made in Chicago. A group of 1,578 young retarded people whose annual earnings totaled \$70,000 were given intensive vocational training lasting from a few months to a year or more at a total cost of \$2,250,000. The first full year of work performed by the group after vocational rehabilitation produced total earnings of \$2,500,000."



# ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON VOC. REHAB. OF MENTALLY RETARDED

From June 14th through 25th, 1965, 30 participants engaged in a Work Conference on the Vocational Rehabilitation of the Mentally Retarded.

The Conference was sponsored by Teachers College, Columbia University and the New York State Association for Retarded Children for the 8th consecutive year. It is supported by a grant from the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.

The curriculum included workshops administration; identification of the mentally retarded; rehabilitation of the mentally retarded — a community responsibility; sheltered workshops — history, philosophy, organization, operation; rehabilitation techniques; and the professional rehabilitation staff.

The Conference was held at A.H.R.C. Training Center and Workshop in New York City.

The faculty consisted of Dr. Jack Jaffee, Columbia University, Joseph T. Weingold and Max Dubrow, Director of the Training Center, coordinators; Jerry Nitzberg, Associate Director of the Workshop and experts in the field of mental retardation together with the staff of the Workshop.

The Mental Retardation Center, Columbia University, operating under a V. R. A. Grant, is considering plans for extending this type of training session for personnel that will be engaged in the vocational rehabilitation of the mentally retarded on many levels, including state agencies as well as those operating workshops.

## WORK EXPERIENCE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED IN PUBLIC SCHOOL A NECESSITY

"It seems to me," writes Roger Curry, a teacher of the mentally retarded in a Carmel Central School District since 1954, "the majority of teachers of the mentally handicapped direct most of their energies in the direction of an academic program that has some resemblance to a watered-down program of the regular class".

"While I feel I should develop the academic skills far enough for the children to be able to take care of themselves in an adult world, I believe my time is wasted as far as trying to develop these skills to the point where they play an important part in earning a living".

"I think our main role for the mentally handicapped is to develop their manual skill and provide some actual work experience for them while they are still in school."

"Since children may leave school at sixteen, such a program of work experience within the confines of the school area would have to start at fourteen or fifteen at the latest. While probably none of our children would ever come to work in school as custodian or cafeteria workers, they would be learning how to get along with others in an occupational atmosphere and they would be able to cite this as work experience when they applied for work upon leaving school."

Mr. Curry has an older sister who is retarded and who has been in Wassaic State School for fourteen years.

"The above might add a little weight", writes Mr. Curry, "that I have some idea of what I am talking about".

## STATE TRAINING GRANT FOR TEACHERS TO BE CONTINUED

The State training program for teachers working in the areas of mental retardation and physically handicapped will be continued during the summer of 1965 and throughout the school year 1965-1966. Funds are available to undertake approved courses leading to certification to teach children who are mentally retarded or physically handicapped (including teachers of the blind, cerebral palsied or deaf).

## WORK CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES



A tough question brings thoughtful countenances.



Dr. Max Dubrow and J. T. Weingold practice looks of disbelief before facing last day audience at conference.



Some of the work conference participants.



"A view from the top" as J. T. Weingold addresses the final session.

HOLIDAY INN —  
SARATOGA SPRINGS



## ADULT CENTER OPENED BY SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER

A facility for mentally retarded young adults was opened earlier this spring at the Smithtown Methodist Church under the joint sponsorship of the Nancy Purick Memorial Fund and the Suffolk County Chapter of the Association.

Known as the Nancy Purick Memorial Center, the facility will provide a place where retarded adults who have had some school experience or equivalent ability can participate in a proper program of activity projects.

At present there are 13 trainees hailing from Patchogue, Smithtown, Huntington, and Port Jefferson.

The group's first work project was to fold and insert a mimeographed letter for the Society for Lending Comfort to the Sick.



Mrs. Nora Keller, director of the center, instructing two trainees.

The center is open five-days-a-week from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. with goals of social adjustment for the members of the group.

The Chapter has also applied to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for an Expansion and Improvement Grant to start a sheltered workshop.

The project is under the direction of Mrs. Nora Keller, a veteran of sheltered workshop work who recently moved to this area from Florida where she helped establish the first sheltered workshop for the mentally retarded in St. Petersburg with a \$50,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

## FUNDS FOR TRAINING TEACHERS OF RETARDED

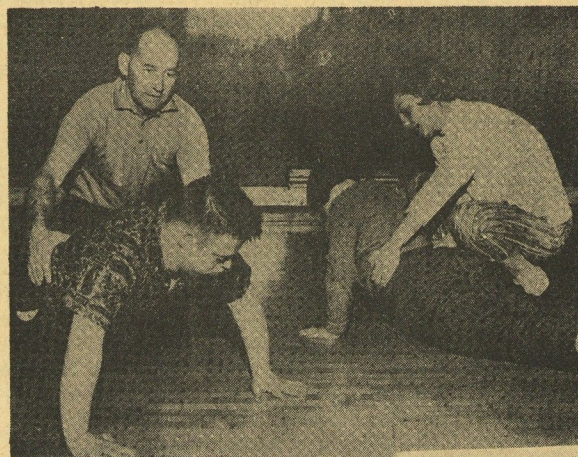
The Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, recently announced the awarding of funds to New York colleges for training teachers for mentally retarded persons.

The following is the breakdown of colleges receiving such funds:

College of St. Rose, Albany	\$16,800;
Fordham University	\$40,400;
Hofstra University	\$25,600;
Marymount University	\$10,800;
New York University	\$49,300;
State University College of Buffalo	\$61,300;
State University College at Geneseo	\$24,000;
Syracuse University	\$74,000;
Teachers College of Columbia University	\$71,700;
Yeshiva University	\$56,000.

## SOCIAL OUTLET: CANTEEN FOR RETARDED

Retarded young people, whether they attend public school or private institutions or no school at all, are apt to lead rather circumscribed lives. Their outlets for social activity are few.



Doing push-ups at the canteen. Steve Luchka, social worker associated with the program for the past nine years and Mrs. Beverly Ronick, volunteer director.

A small group of young women from the Westchester Shore Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, long ago realized that something could be done to alleviate this problem.

That something is a canteen for the retarded which has flourished and, as it enters its 10th year, is staffed by more than 20 volunteers working faithfully on a rotating basis under a volunteer director.

The canteen is conducted every Monday night at the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck which donates the use of its gym, lounge and some other facilities.

Nearly 30 retarded young people, from various Westchester communities, come each week for a couple of hours of exercise, basketball, games, periodic parties, monthly bowling sessions at nearby alleys, movies and special activities. Occasionally there are field trips.

Their parents frequently stay, too, to chat with each other. It's a social hour for them and an opportunity to exchange ideas on common problems.

The volunteers, many of whom shied away from working with the retarded in the beginning, now find the work elating. The canteeners respond readily to the staffers' efforts and derive visible pleasure out of participating in new activities.

## GE EMPLOYEES GIVE \$8,000 FOR RETARDED

The General Electric Employees Share fund has pledged \$8,000 to the Schenectady County Chapter.

H. D. Snively, chairman of the Share board retarded children's committee, and J. S. Allegrezza, chairman of the Share board of administrators, made the pledge after the board met with representatives of the Chapter.

Representing the Chapter were R. H. Knorr, president; W. T. Hubbard, drive chairman; C. L. Westfall, president-elect, and B. E. Stiles, treasurer.

For the last 13 years, Share has pledged \$87,700 to help retarded children. Share is an organization of GE employees who contribute regularly through payroll deductions.

WE EXPECT TO SEE YOU AT THE CONVENTION — OCTOBER 14 to 17 —  
HOLIDAY INN — SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK



## NEW YORK CITY WORKSHOP RECEIVES GRANT TO STUDY DEPRIVED RETARDED

Max W. Schachter, President of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter has announced that the AHRC Training Center and Sheltered Workshop will undertake a 3 year study to investigate and evaluate the influence of socio-economic deprivation in mentally retarded young adults participating in its program.

The link between retardation and deprivation has received considerable attention by a number of voluntary, private and governmental agencies.

In a recent report by the President's Panel on Mental Retardation, it was stated that "the majority of the mentally retarded are children of more disadvantaged classes of our society".

In the AHRC Workshop, it was noted that during 1964-65, one-third of all new admissions were negro or Puerto-Rican as compared with one negro and no Puerto-Rican admissions during the Workshop's first two years of operation.

It is expected that the present study will reveal significant differences in testable functions and adaptive behavior between the Workshop's socially deprived trainees and those who come from middle class families. Changes and modifications in programming and counseling will then be developed to effect a higher level of performance.

The project, effective July 1st, 1965, is made possible, in part, through a grant awarded by the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

A Satellite Workshop, located at 108 Lawrence Street, Brooklyn, opened last October. A second Satellite, or annex, is expected to open in Queens in the near future.

The AHRC Training Center and Workshop is the prototype for seventy similar projects throughout the country.

## 4-COUNTY VOC. ED. PROGRAM SUGGESTS REGIONAL SERVICES

A survey, two years in the drafting, has just been completed for the 4-county area, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca and Yates, on the needs for vocational education programs.

The conclusions of the committee are that (1) vocational education is needed in this four-county area (2) there should be two programs established in the four-county area (one for Wayne and another for Ontario, Seneca and Yates) and (3) the program should be a half time program with the pupil receiving his academic instruction in his own high school.

District Superintendent John Loveless, stated that the program will serve 27 school districts in the four-counties. Although the initial ten courses recommended do not go into the question of handicapped students, Dist. Supt. Loveless foresees that the four-county vocational set-up ultimately will encompass programs for secondary students, post-secondary, adults, the mentally retarded and emotionally handicapped.

The area vocational survey is one of twenty-four being made in the state under the Education Department direction in order to establish curricula programs to better equip the non-college bound students for after school employment.

The vocational education program, if properly carried out, holds considerable promise for proper curricula development for the mentally retarded between the ages of 17 to 21.

RESERVE THE DATES —

OCTOBER 14, 15th, 16th & 17th.

STATE CONVENTION

## FORMAL BOWLING PROGRAM, FULTON COUNTY CHAPTER BEING OBSERVED

Officials of state and federal groups, supervising programs for handicapped people and for rehabilitation, are keeping close tabs on a Fulton County Association bowling program.



Director Charles MacVean, top center, is supervising a work project of packaging nuts and bolts at the Lexington Training Center in Gloversville.

The weekly program has attracted the attention of officials of Rehabilitation Centers on local, state and national level.

Although many Chapters of the Association have bowling programs, this is the first formal program involving training under professional guidance.

Charles MacVean, director of the Chapter's Workshop, reports it is the only formal bowling program for the mentally retarded in the nation.

Besides the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the program involved the Capital District Bowling Proprietors Association.

In preliminary sessions, the youths were shown a motion picture on bowling; they received instructions on fundamentals, they used a softball to become acquainted with the approach and delivery. The graduated into using plastic balls and pins and soon were ready to begin the supervised program on lanes.

Fulton County has the only sheltered workshop and training center for retarded people between that area and the Canadian border.

## CLINIC ORGANIZED IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

The first tangible results of the A. R. C. expansion program in St. Lawrence County were felt in Ogdensburg on May 21st when a multi-discipline clinic to diagnose retarded children was held at Hepburn Hospital.

Five patients were seen by the clinic's team which included Dr. Deborah Kaplan, Potsdam pediatrician; Dr. Mary Jane Kinosian, neurologist; and Gerald Gallagher, a member of the St. Lawrence County Psychologists Association.

A clinic will be held in the Potsdam-Canton area as soon as there are enough patients to warrant it. Appointments for children to come to this clinic must be made through the family doctor or the school doctor.

The county activities have extended to the formation of units in Potsdam, Massena and Ogdensburg. Meetings have already been held in Canton to establish a unit there and a Gouverneur unit is in the planning stage.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.



## ESSAY CONTEST DRAWS 345 ENTRIES

George G. Hirsch, Chairman of the Scholarship and Awards Committee of the Association, announced that 345 essays had been received in the recent high school Essay Contest on the topic, "Mental Retardation—A Community Problem — A Community Challenge."

Essays were received from all corners of the State, but with a preponderance from the Southeast Region. Two-hundred-and-twenty essays were obtained from schools within our Southeast Region, which far outdistanced the second most productive area, the Central Region which produced 57 essays. The Northeast and Western Region each had 34 entries in the competition.

A panel of judges was chosen for each region by the Regional Vice-President. They have now completed their judging, and the top 22 entries are being considered in the State finals. Announcing of the State winner and runner-up will be made at the State Convention in Saratoga Springs, and awards will be presented to the writers of the top two essays at the Annual Banquet, Saturday evening.

Regional judges in the contest were:

### NORTHEAST REGION

Mr. Herbert E. Ross, Jr.; Miss Ann Fitzgerald; Mrs. Jayne B. Rychek; Miss Nan R. Walsh; Mrs. Sidney G. Adelman.

### SOUTHEAST REGION

Mr. Arthur Gassman; Mrs. Helen Kaplan; Mr. John Czerniewicz; Mrs. James Reville; Mrs. Dorothy Kerner; Mr. Vincent Anastasio; Mrs. Dorothy Fixler; Mrs. Helen O'Neill; Mrs. Shirley Epstein; Mr. James Reville.

### CENTRAL REGION

Hon. Joseph Esworthy; Miss Eloise Woodroe; Mrs. Ruth Richards; Mr. Bruce Becker; Mrs. Joseph F. Abissi.

\*Western Region's judges have not yet been received.

## INITIAL TEACHING ALPHABET PROJECT AT SYRACUSE STATE SCHOOL

A project utilizing the initial-teaching-alphabet with educable mentally retarded children has been underway at the Syracuse State School since November 1963. At that time, two members of the Psychology Department, Mr. Byron J. Ward and Miss Joan Beauchamp organized an exploratory study with seven students to determine the feasibility of utilizing the i/t/a for teaching educable mentally retarded children to read.

The i/t/a was devised by Sir James Pitman, grandson of Sir Isaac Pitman of shorthand fame as a phonetic type alphabet to simplify the task of reading for beginning readers. In the i/t/a there are 44 characters to stand for the 44 principle sounds of the English language. Whenever a child sees a particular character, he knows that this character carries with it a particular sound. This removes the ambiguity which torments the beginning reader, i.e., the sound of long i has 22 ways of being spelled in the traditional alphabet: for example, aisle, phial, buy, etc.

The largest United States' experiment is being conducted by Dr. Albert Mazurkiewicz of Lehigh University. This i/t/a demonstration is being conducted under the auspices of a \$148,000 Ford Foundation Grant.

Although the results of the study at Syracuse State School have not yet been completely analyzed, indications so far are that the i/t/a has proven successful with the Syracuse State School population.

A group of seven students who were selected to participate received instructions November 1963 to November 1964. On the basis of pre-testing, and teaching recommendations, the students were selected as those least likely to learn to read using the traditional alphabet and as representative of the types of students served by the school. The IQ's ranged from 54 to 78. They are all functioning as non-readers.

A by-product of instruction in the i/t/a was an improvement in spelling in the traditional alphabet, despite the lack of formal instruction in this area.

## NOT ENOUGH SPECIAL CLASSES AVAILABLE TO STATE'S RETARDED

More than half of the mentally retarded who could be helped by special classes are not receiving such training, Mrs. Dorothy Buehring, associate director of the State Education Department, said at a meeting in Binghamton.

Special Classes throughout the state are providing instruction for only 48 percent of these children.

The 2,568 special classes reach 34,159 mentally retarded youngsters, she said. But some 36,000 children who should be getting special instruction do not, according to her statistics.

She said there are many factors, including a shortage of classrooms and space in the public schools where the state wants these children to go, a shortage of qualified teachers for this special work, and difficulty in transporting children from a district that does not have special classes to one that does.

The 36,000 trainable and educable children are attending regular school classes in their districts, Mrs. Buehring said. They are advanced through the grades on a basis of age, but do not receive the special training they should be getting, she said.

Of the 34,159 children receiving special instruction, she added 30,242 are educable and 3,917 are trainable.

She added that the coverage was 100 percent in the City of Binghamton. The city program that was started in 1919 with about 18 children now has an enrollment of 230, including 19 non-residents of the city. The youngsters range in age from six through 19.

Mrs. Buehring praised the "wonderful work and training being done" at the special classes in Binghamton. She credited the parents group with the great deal of influence in helping to establish and maintain programs for the mentally retarded.

## WORK-STUDY PROGRAM FOR RETARDED

The preparation of the mentally retarded by the public schools for the world of work is becoming more and more important as we develop work opportunity for them.

The latest plan for a work-study program is aimed at training mentally retarded youth for self supporting employment has been opened through the Worcester Central school (Otsego County) for educable young people between the ages of 17 and 21 years.

The program is under the direction of Mr. Theron Hotaling, Jr., special class teacher at Worcester Central.

Basically, the work-study program provides educable mentally retarded youths with the opportunity to participate in a half-day special class program, with the other half-day in work training for employment areas.

The students can work from 2 to 4 hours a day with the school providing transportation to and from the place of employment. The program should last approximately 40 weeks during the school year. For the first 15 weeks, the State pays all wages based on \$1.25 per hour. For the next 12 weeks, the state will pay half of the wages and, for the last 13 weeks, the state will pay a third.

The work-study program can be a temporary training assignment or become actual job placement.

At the present time, there are 31 such work-study programs throughout the state.

It is interesting to note, in the program nearest to Otsego, in Oneonta, there are three times as many jobs available as there are students to fill them.

Some suggested areas of employment in the Otsego program are: farming, gardening, domestic work, food service areas, auto maintenance and service, nurse's aides, some hospital service, lumbering, building maintenance and stock boys for stores.

HOLIDAY INN — SARATOGA SPRINGS —





A program of joint research and education in mental retardation has been launched by Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and the Kennedy Child Study Center, a Catholic agency. Shown at the press conference which announced the program are Francis Cardinal Spellman and Dr. Samuel Belkin, Yeshiva president (seated); and standing, R. Sargent Shriver and Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith.

## MENTAL RETARDATION RESEARCH CENTERS ESTABLISHED

Grant awards totaling \$4,955,000 to aid in the construction of three multi-disciplinary mental retardation research centers was announced recently by Surgeon General Luther L. Terry of the Public Health Service, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The grants are:

\$1,724,000 to the Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio for construction of an eight-story building adjacent to the hospital to be known as Children's Hospital Institute for Developmental Research.

\$2,404,000 to George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, for construction of two units.

\$827,000 to the Walter E. Fernald State School, Waltham, Massachusetts, for a four-story building for clinical research in mental retardation.

This is in addition to a Federal construction grant of \$724,725 award to the Fernald School last month.

These awards bring to \$13,740,000 the total funds awarded under a legislation passed in 1963 which authorized the Public Health Service to provide up to 75 percent of the cost of construction of multi-disciplinary centers for research and research training in mental retardation. The first two mental retardation research center grants were awarded in October 1964 to the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, New York City.

Grants for construction of mental retardation research centers are administered by the Division of Research Facilities and Resources of the National Institute of Health.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is the focal point for program consultations with institutions interested in developing mental retardation research centers.

## STATE CONVENTION —

## EUNICE SHRIVER HONORED

At the 16th Anniversary Dinner of the New York City Chapter of the Association, held May 22nd in the Imperial Ballroom of the Hotel Americana in New York City, Dr. Henry Cobb, President of the N.A.R.C., presented Eunice Shriver with the AHRC, New York City Chapter's 1965 Humanitarian Award for her outstanding contributions in the field of mental retardation.



L. to R. Mrs. Sargent Shriver, Jr. congratulates Ann Greenberg to whom she presented a plaque.

A surprise event of the evening was Mrs. Shriver's award to the Association for the "efforts of countless parents in creating a better world for the mentally retarded". Mrs. Ann Greenberg, founder of the Association, was the recipient of the tribute in the form of a bronze plaque.

Among the guests were Patricia Lawford, sister of Mrs. Shriver and the late President John F. Kennedy, Cardinal Francis Spellman, mezzo-soprano Rise Stevens and State Senator William T. Conklin.

NBC news commentator Bob Wilson was Master of Ceremonies.

## BLOOD TEST DEvised FOR GERMAN MEASLES

A fast, easy and inexpensive blood test to detect german measles infection has been developed by scientists at the National Institute of Health.

The test has been worked out apparently just in time to meet the needs created by the epidemics of the disease also known as rubella—beginning to spread through the west coast, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, according to an Institute's spokesman.

The test is expected to be helpful in preventing many cases of birth defects that can result from rubella infection during the first three months of pregnancy.

According to the best estimates, a woman stands about 50-50 chance of bearing a deformed baby if she has been infected by the rubella virus according to government estimates.

"A major tragedy," is how this situation was described by Dr. Richard L. Massland, director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, in recent testimony for the Congress.

As a result of a rubella epidemic that hit the east coast earlier this year, thousands of defective babies may be born, according to Dr. Massland.

A quick and easy test for infection—which may not be apparent but nevertheless may cause birth defects—could prevent such tragedies by revealing whether a therapeutic abortion should be considered.

The new test can be done several at a time by a laboratory technician and be completed in 24 hours, the scientists reported.



# POSITION PAPERS OF NEW YORK

# STATE

## POSITION PAPER NO. 1

### IMPLEMENTATION:

#### Separation of Mental Retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene.

State Planning for the services for the mentally retarded in New York State must be seen in its proper perspective.

There are a number of reasons why such planning is necessary, but, if the planning stops with the plan itself, it will again be of little value. Among the reasons why planning on a state level in New York State is of value, are the following:

1. Although much planning has been done by voluntary agencies in the community, especially the Association for Retarded Children, professional agencies such as the American Association on Mental Deficiency, as well as by many individuals, no similar planning has ever been developed on a state level in New York State.

2. Any planning that has been done, and any implementation of services, has been on a very fragmented basis by the State of New York, and within narrow parochial interests within the boundaries of State Departments.

3. Services for the mentally retarded in New York State, both in institutions and in the community, are at a very elementary stage at this point and not responsive to the needs of the mentally retarded or their parents.

#### Existing State Administrative Structure Has Failed

It is the position of this Association that if planning, and especially implementation, is predicated on the existing methods for implementation and the existing power structure in the State of New York, it will have to fail.

It is elementary, in the opinion of this Association, that planning must begin with a critical examination of the methods of implementation and the power structure above mentioned.

It is the position of this Association that the existing power structure and the method of implementation must be changed radically if we are to insure any degree of success for the planning.

It is the position of this Association that, having responsibility for less than 5% of the mentally retarded, the Department of Mental Hygiene has dominated the field of mental retardation in New York State.

It is the position of this Association that 38 years' efforts on the Department of Mental Hygiene have failed to accomplish anything of significance for the mentally retarded in this state. The major advances have been outside the department: Education, Vocational Rehabilitation and A.R.C. sponsored projects.

At this date, after 38 years, we find the institutions for the mentally retarded almost 40% overcrowded. Once boasting we had no waiting list, we now find a waiting list as well. Each year the net increase in institution population is between 450 and 750. No plans have been developed by the department to overcome this except by building more beds. This has failed in the past. The colony system has fallen more and more into disuse without being replaced by more modern concepts. Hundreds of children are receiving no education because of lack of space and teachers. The whole concept of rehabilitation is subservient to a psycho medico approach that has not achieved even adequate physical care for the patients in the state schools.

### Unilateral Action

It is our contention, therefore, that new avenues of approach must be found and new methods of dealing with this problem.

Until now we have been faced with acts on the basis of "fait accompli". This may be a good way of getting things done, but it is hardly calculated to instill confidence or affection from the public for the agency that is presenting the public with this fait accompli. A typical example of this is the 1,000-bed concept which was presented at the instigation of the Department of Mental Hygiene to the Governor, and then by the Governor, as the State's program for the mentally retarded. This was done without consultation with the Planning Committee, without real study of the needs of the mentally retarded. As a program for the mentally retarded, it is woefully inadequate, both in terms of construction for those patients who have to be institutionalized as well as for services in the community which are totally neglected.

Another instance of action by fait accompli is the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Finance with regard to broadening the Community Mental Health Services Act and the Mental Hygiene Facility Improvement Fund.

Bills have been introduced by the administration in both these respects without consultation with the Task Force on Financing and both these bills are inadequate and, in fact, dangerous. The bill for the Mental Hygiene Improvement Fund provides that the Fund may construct Mental Health centers and Mental Retardation Facilities at the request of a City or County. Again we see the complete ignoring of voluntary agencies and the community at large concerned with the mentally retarded. If we talk about community action, whom do we mean? Do we mean the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor of a City, the Director of a Mental Health Board, or the few people who are politically appointed to such a Board? The community consists of those agencies that are vitally concerned with the mentally retarded and especially the Association for Retarded Children. These are ignored in the composition of the Boards, and in any definition of a community that we have seen coming out of the Department.

The amendment to the Community Mental Health Services Act provides that the State, in contracts that the Mental Health Boards may enter into for construction, will pay  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the cost. This is predicated on the fact that there are Federal funds available that will meet approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the cost. The rationale is that the State will meet  $\frac{1}{3}$  and the community (whoever that is) will meet the other  $\frac{1}{3}$ . This is too narrow a concept and does not take into consideration the fact that there may be no Mental Health Center or Retardation Facility Fund in the future and that if a community wishes to construct, the State should be ready to meet the  $\frac{1}{2}$  as it would for other mental health and retardation purposes.

### We Must Have A New Separate Department For Mental Retardation

It is the position of this Association that mental retardation must be divorced from that Department completely. It is a problem big enough to stand on its own feet, either as a separate Department of the State with its own Commissioner, or as a Division in the Executive Branch of the Government. The present structure of the



# ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

## PLANNING

Department of Mental Hygiene illustrates the futility of continuing jurisdiction over mental retardation. At most, we have lip service that mental retardation is a separate problem. The Division of Mental Retardation is inadequately staffed, has no power over budget, it is subservient in all respects to the mental health program in whose shadow it lies and from which it cannot emerge in the present structure. Even in the field of community services, this Division has no power with regard to the mentally retarded it is designed to serve.

### POSITION PAPER NO. 2

#### IMPLEMENTATION:

##### A Separate Community Mental Retardation Services Act

It is the position of this Association that after 10 years of failure, mental retardation should be removed from the Community Mental Health Services Act and put into a separate Mental Retardation Services Act with more teeth in it than the present Community Mental Health Services Act. In order to assure that local communities will establish Community Mental Retardation Services Boards, it is the position of this Association that the Community Mental Health Services Act, as it will then deal with the mentally ill only, contain a provision that all state aid be conditional on the percentage of funds allocated to facilities established for the mentally retarded in any community.

It is the position of this Association, that any Board dealing with the mentally retarded have on it, as a majority, representatives of the consumers of the services, and to call a spade a spade, parents of the retarded who are representatives of the New York State Association for Retarded Children. It is equally important that citizens be involved, and especially parents of the mentally retarded, as an advisory board or body for the Mental Retardation Department or Division.

This may be accomplished if the Governor were to redeem his promise of January 1962 to the Legislature when he stated that he would create a Citizens' Committee on Mental Retardation, advisory to him.

It should not be necessary to document the failure of the Community Mental Health Services Act, but this is easy to do. Out of over \$35 million dollars spent in the year 63-64 for all services, some \$400,000 was spent on mental retardation, or about 1% for an equal partner. It is evident that the Community Mental Health Services Act is not the vehicle through which to educate the community. We can see no real hope except through a separate Mental Retardation Services Act.

### POSITION PAPER NO. 3

#### IMPLEMENTATION:

##### A New Agency For Follow-up and Implementation of Plan

It is the position of this Association that all planning will stand or fall on the methods of implementation.

It is the position of this Association that no existing methods are acceptable or have been successful in creating and implementing services for the mentally retarded.

It is our position further that the recommendations of the Planning Committee with regard to strengthening the Interdepartmental Health and Hospital Council will be futile as no powers are given that body.

It is our recommendation therefore that:

1. A separate Planning Board be created by law with enough powers to implement planning recommendations in all respects.

2. That this board should be appointed by the Governor and be composed of Commissioners of Education, Mental Retardation Department, Public Health, Social Welfare, Labor and Correction. In addition, there should be two persons representing non-governmental agencies providing services for the mentally retarded; two persons representing the general public; and five parents of the mentally retarded chosen from the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

3. The board shall have the power to initiate, coordinate and implement programs and projects for the mentally retarded which shall include but not be limited to: (a) new present and proposed state and local government and voluntary agency programs; (b) develop coordinated plans of state and local services; (c) act as consultant to other agencies for evaluation and improvement of services; (d) stimulate, encourage, initiate and support demonstrations of new services; (e) develop and formulate a master plan for establishing responsibilities for the total array of mental retardation services; and (f) assign and re-assign responsibility for the operation of programs to service departments.

4. The Board shall stimulate planning for professional training.

5. It shall encourage and stimulate local communities to plan and establish mental retardation planning bodies for development of services for the mentally retarded near where they live; and enter into contract arrangements with local communities to assist them in such planning and development.

6. It shall act as a contractor for the purchase on a fee for services basis of local and private services including community planning agencies and arrange for contracts with the State Department having responsibility for operating programs.

7. It shall review department budget requests for services for the mentally retarded and make recommendations to the Governor and the legislature.

8. The board should be authorized to assign with the approval of the director of the budget to any state department or agency appropriation for specific programs made available to the board whenever the execution of such programs by a specific department or agency becomes reasonable.

9. It shall have the power to enter into contracts with municipalities and voluntary agencies for the establishment and development of services on a demonstration basis.

### POSITION PAPER NO. 4

#### Construction of Institutional Facilities

The State Association views with consternation and considerable alarm the Governor's program for the building of seven 1,000-bed units as recommended by the Department of Mental Hygiene. This concern stems (a) from the fact that the community was not consulted at all in this and (b) that the plan does not take into consideration the major factor that will influence our institutions' size and population-prevention.

It is the position of this Association that the 1000-bed concept should be held in abeyance pending re-examination of the entire program in the light of the development of community services as well as beds.

It is the position of this Association that existing state school beds should be restricted to specific hospital care and continued to be used for custodial residential care rather than for the large numbers of the retarded who have long ago received maximum benefits from the state institutions.



# 14 POSITION PAPERS on STATE PLANNING

Under other auspices, with state assistance, treatment centers should be increased by at least 30 250-bed units, each surrounded by temporary care and a variety of residential facilities in addition to day services for 750.

It is important to note that any residential facility for the mentally retarded in this framework necessitates a constellation of other operating services, under auspices other than the Department that is operating the institution. This should include a full gamut of services such as nursery, schools, sheltered workshops, hospitals, foster home care, etc. We must not lose sight of the fact that over 95% of those identified as mentally retarded currently remain in the community. We must extend community based services to an appropriate portion of the remaining 5%, if we are to avoid the mistakes of the past in building institutions.

It is the position of this Association, therefore, much more study must go into the size of institutions and their nature. Upon the basis of such study, we would like to see as dogmatic statements concerning 20-bed facilities, 100-bed community living quarters, etc., as we see now on the 1000-bed unit. It is important to avoid glamour or eye-catching statements as a substitute for real thinking and services in this field.

## POSITION PAPER NO. 5

### Regional Centers

It is extremely important to recognize the position of Regional Centers and that these not be confused with total facilities services for the mentally retarded. This Association sees a grave danger of this, when the regional center is based on the residential facility rather than the reverse.

It is evident that there must be a shift to state responsibility for mentally retarded persons from the time they enter the state institution to the time they are diagnosed as needing specialized care.

As we use the term "Regional Centers", we mean regional diagnostic counseling and service centers for mentally retarded persons and their families.

These will provide fixed points of referral in the community for retarded and their families for life, establish on-going points of contact with the mentally retarded and their families so that they may have a place of entry for services and return as the need may appear, provide a link between the retarded and sources in the community including state departments to the end that families may have access to the facilities best suited to them throughout the life of the retarded person and offer alternatives for state school placement.

We suggest that a network of regional diagnostic counseling service centers for the mentally retarded and their families easily accessible to every family be established throughout the state.

It is the position of this Association that the State Department of Mental Retardation, or, if that does not exist, the Department of Health contract with appropriate agencies for the establishment of such regional centers.

Such regional centers shall be near centers of populations where most needed, and whenever possible, in close proximity to institutions of higher learning and research.

The Association conceives that the regional centers will offer or perform the following services: (a) diagnosis; (b) counseling on a continuing basis including locating and using suitable community facilities, including but not limiting special medical services, nursery and pre-school training, public education, recreation, vocational rehabilitation, and suitable residential facilities; (c) supply state funds to vendors of services to the retarded when failure to provide such services will result in institutionalization; (d) maintain a registry; (e) systematic follow-ups — reactivation of cases as indicated; (f) assist when necessary in insti-

tutionalization; (g) call public attention to unmet needs in community care and services and stimulate communities to develop such services as needed.

The State Department of Mental Retardation or Department of Health may receive all funds and act as an agent for the transmittal of such funds for services to the regional centers.

The parents or guardians of the mentally retarded person may designate the Commissioner of Mental Retardation or, if he does not exist, the Commissioner of Public Health, as a guardian of the retarded person on the death of the parents or guardian, if the state has assumed responsibility for providing care to the retarded person through the regional center. Such guardianship shall be for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations of the regional center and to provide retarded person with insurance of continuity of care.

The agency operating the regional center may enter into agreements with parents, guardians or persons responsible for the care of the retarded or estates of the retarded persons to use such amounts as they may be able to pay towards the cost of services for such mentally retarded persons, and the regional center shall be in the position of responsibility for follow-ups to insure the retarded person receives such services as alternatives to institutionalization.

## POSITION PAPER NO. 6

### Abolition of Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund

The Association opposes this means of construction. It is dangerous to all our concepts of institutionalization prevention and an immoral, if not unconstitutional, measure.

The aim of the creation of the Fund was to by-pass existing means of financing construction (bond issues voted by the people and backed by the state's credit). It was a result of the now discarded "pay-as-you-go policy."

The earmarking of patients' and relatives' fees for interest and amortization payments is a dangerous social concept.

1. It imposes the liability for construction of all future institutions on the parents and relatives of present patients. This should be a charge against the whole community. It represents a novel and highly immoral approach to a problem of society: That those afflicted shall be solely responsible for construction of facilities for their care.

This Association believes (a) It is unconstitutional as violating the 14th Amendment (Equal protection of the laws) of the Federal Constitution and the corresponding provision in the State Constitution.

(b) It gives the state a stake in keeping patients in the institutions and getting more and more patients in. The State is a prison of the bankers and must keep fees high and payers plentiful.

This is a shocking and horrible concept. Surely it must be abhorrent to the psychiatric and social work professions, —and all others concerned with patients' welfare.

(c) It means an unnecessary administrative overhead with no present useful function.

### We urge its immediate repeal.

It serves no real financial or social purpose. There are enough unused Mental Hygiene authorized bonds to use. The fund has not sped up building by one minute.



## SUNMOUNT V.A. HOSPITAL FOR RETARDED

Governor Rockefeller has announced that the Veterans Administration Hospital at Sunmount, New York, will be taken over as a state school for the mentally retarded.

\$500,000 has been appropriated for this purpose.

The plan calls for the Department of Mental Hygiene to operate the school for 500 patients. The Governor estimated that the school's annual operating budget would be about \$2 million.

Under this plan, the state would employ about 375 persons with the Federal workers now employed being given job priorities when the state takes over.

The school will serve St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, and Hamilton Counties.

The possibility of the availability of this facility was called to the attention of the Association by Comptroller Arthur Levitt in a telephone call to Jerry Weingold. It was relayed immediately to Dr. Harold McPheeters, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, who informed Mr. Weingold that the Department had investigated the facility and was enthusiastic about its use.

Staff of the Association had also visited the facility and felt it was eminently suited for the purpose of serving the north country.

Under the state construction plans, the nearest facility to the north country would be at Wilton near Saratoga an institution of 1,000, a number with which the Association disagreed.

The Association had pointed out that smaller facilities such as J. N. Adams and Mt. McGregor have been much more satisfactory to the parents of the patients.

The Governor pointed out that in addition to providing greatly needed facilities for the mentally retarded in this area, the continued operation of the facility will be a stimulus to the local economy which would otherwise be seriously affected by the closing of the Veterans Administration Hospital.

## NEWARK STATE SCHOOL PLANS TRAINING PROGRAM

A federal grant of \$15,439 has been awarded to the Newark State School for conducting a special project for the in-service training of attendants, it was disclosed by Dr. Frank Henne, director.

Awarded by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, the grant is for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1965, and may be renewed for a total of five years.

The director said the institution has established an intensive care program for severely retarded and for physically handicapped children, necessitating the planning of care for small groups of 10 to 12 children by attendants who are sensitive to a child's reactions and responses and who are capable of judging the level of the child's development.

Dr. Henne said a 15 weeks course in child development will be conducted twice a year for 20 carefully selected employees with 10 enrollments each time.

"Regardless of the degree of retardation, the success of treatment, training, education, and rehabilitation depends upon the recognition of the retardate as a being who is capable of sensing his environment and responding to experiences provided him by people who are responsible for his care, training and education," said Dr. Henne.

Mrs. Frances Green, chief supervising nurse, will be the coordinator and will have the assistance of Mrs. Mary Jane Cornwell. Dr. Henne said it is planned to recruit a faculty of four professional people with a background in education or psychology from either the University of Rochester or the University of Syracuse.

## DR. McGUINNESS TO HEAD SUFFOLK STATE SCHOOL

Dr. Edward J. McGuinness has been named director of the Suffolk State School at Melville, Long Island.

Dr. McGuinness has been assistant director, clinical, at Craig Colony and Hospital at Sonyea, N. Y., since June 1960. In his new post he will organize and develop the staff and make preparations for the opening of the new school this fall.



Dr. Edward J. McGuinness, director of the Suffolk State School, addresses the fifteenth annual dinner meeting of the Suffolk County Chapter on June 8.

The new Suffolk State School will provide services for mentally retarded patients from the Long Island area. It is anticipated that four infirmary buildings for a total of 520 patients will be ready for occupancy in the fall. Among additional facilities to be opened as completed are a medical-surgical building, an infants' building, a rehabilitation building, cottages for school children, and a school building including an auditorium and gymnasium.

A graduate of St. John's University, Brooklyn, Dr. McGuinness received his medical degree from Marquette University Medical School, Milwaukee, Wis., in 1940. Following an internship at Wyckoff Heights Hospital, Brooklyn, and a psychiatric residency at Brooklyn State Hospital, he served with the United States Army from 1942 to 1945. He was associated with the psychiatric service in Veterans Administration hospitals in the Bronx and Northport and in private medical practice from 1946 to 1948.

He entered state service in 1951 as a senior psychiatrist at Marcy State Hospital and became a supervising psychiatrist in 1953.

Dr. McGuinness is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the Neuropsychiatric Society of Genesee Valley, and the Neuron Club. He has been an officer and member of the Mohawk Neuropsychiatric Society. He also has served as a consultant psychiatrist at Attica State Prison.

## MENTAL HYGIENE ITEMS RESTORED IN SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Governor Rockefeller recently announced that the expenditures authorized by the 1965-1966 legislative supplemental budget can be met within prospective revenues to be collected by the State in that year.

The total expenditures authorized by the legislative supplemental budget from the General Fund were estimated at \$54.1 million.

Among the items restored to the budget were \$2,912,417 for the Department of Mental Hygiene. The Chief items are \$500,000 for the staffing of new facilities; improving the staffing of institutions, \$2 million; and \$100,000 for organizational improvements in the main office.

COME ON UP — COME ON DOWN — OCTOBER 14 to 17th — HOLIDAY INN —



# Chapter News

ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER reports that a fourth class will be started in the Geneva Public Schools . . . to serve the mentally retarded . . . will bridge the gap between primary and intermediary classes . . . President Kenney reports Geneva City Department of Recreation continues playground programs in the summer . . . nominated Rosenblum Discount House for NARC Employer of the Year Award . . . store had the first successful job placement under DVR "on the job training program" in Ontario County . . . New Chapter TIOGA COUNTY already full of activities . . . Charity Ball last December . . . May-day party May 1st . . . made survey of the needs of the mentally retarded in the county . . . TOMPKINS COUNTY reported in full elsewhere

## TWO MAYORS KICK OFF DRIVE



Harold Lucia, President, Warren Washington Chapter, watches as Mayor James E. Wallace of Glens Falls, left, and Mayor G. Roswell Earl of Hudson Falls sign identical applications for membership renewals to kick off the membership drive.

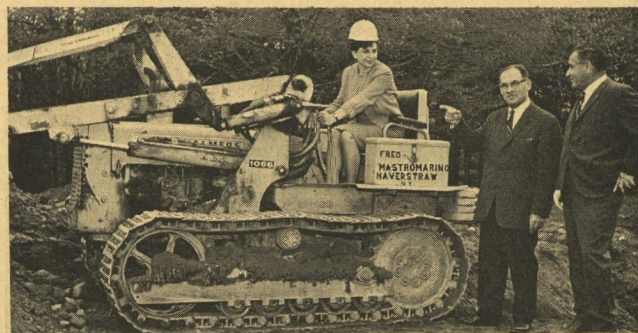
in this issue . . . have no source of funds, as yet, to operate the center according to their Newsletter . . . all other new Chapters please copy operation of a Newsletter . . . have an interesting department, "Nicer than Anybody Department" . . . like the item thanking the bartenders and patrons of George's Restaurant for collecting \$90.00 in their jugs . . . and the big hand given to all volunteers . . . Newsletter of NIAGARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION has full information on income tax deductions . . . and in time for making the income tax report . . . ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER negotiating with Community Mental Health Board for contract . . . it looks good . . . fund raising last year most successful it has ever had . . . auxiliary had a spring luncheon at the Hotel Pierre . . . let's all have them in New York City . . . the Fair needs our



ALL SET . . . Miss Rise Stevens (L) meets with committee chairman Burton Loewer and Mrs. Loewer in LaRonde restaurant to go over details for dinner honoring Eunice Shriver.

business . . . WELFARE LEAGUE provides free bus service for convenience of members visiting LETCHWORTH VILLAGE who do not have cars . . . chapter has insti-

## NEW POOLS FOR LETCHWORTH



Ground-breaking ceremonies for two new pools to be erected at Letchworth Village, by Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter. Shown participating in the event, Dr. Roselind Schwartz, President, manning the bulldozer; Dr. Isaac N. Wolfson, Director of Letchworth Village and Fred Mastromarino, builder.

tuted free bus service around the grounds on Saturdays and Sundays . . . planning already for the November luncheon when Dr. Richard Masland will be guest of honor . . . broke ground for two long awaited sprinkler pools . . . president Roselind Schwartz ran the tractor . . . and you should have seen the masquerade ball held in the spring at LETCHWORTH VILLAGE . . . we wish we could get some pictures we could reproduce . . . Northeast Regional Conference of the State Association was hosted by RENSSELAER COUNTY CHAPTER . . . a fine occasion and good food as can be attested by your Executive Director who spoke at the meeting . . . Chapter is being aided by Junior League of Troy this year . . . planning an additional nursery class due to this support . . . negotiating for a Community Mental Health Board contract for half its budget . . . other half being picked up by United Fund . . . Troup No. 12 sponsored by WARREN-WASHINGTON CHAPTER conducted a show on rope making in the Scout-O-Rama conducted in the State Armory in Glens Falls . . . Junior Division of NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER held "Lesprit de Paris" Ball in the spring . . . aiding the New York League for AHRC that supports the workshop . . . NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER issued a newsletter specifically for parents of children in special classes in public schools in New York City . . . some 11,000 . . . Executive Director, Jerry Weingold . . . represented the Chapter at an Annual Conference of United Federation of Teachers . . . spoke on early training . . . some 3,000 staff members of Board of Education attended . . . not all at this session . . . but they had interesting display of the workshop . . . in response to requests from many parents they list religious programs for mentally retarded in New York City . . . Protestant, Catholic and Jewish . . . operating day camps in three boroughs . . . applying to Mental Health Board for contract . . . WESTCHESTER COUNTY annual Ball named "ORCHID BALL" . . . 50 retarded children toured New York Aquarium at Coney Island . . . sponsored by Brookhaven Town Recreation Department (Suffolk Co.) . . . ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER benefited from dance recital at Grant Junior High School . . . summer day camps well on the way . . . added a psychiatric social worker to the activities center . . . luncheons . . . fashion shows . . . art shows . . . great activity . . . again must compliment the ARC Lamplighter Newspaper of SUF-

(Continued Next Page)



**FOLK COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . a thrilling paper . . . a weekly four-H recreational program for mentally retarded children began on June 30th in **ORANGE COUNTY** . . . announced by the Tri-Town Auxiliary of **ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . still negotiating with Community Mental Health Board . . . anyone know any good directors . . . could use them at Orange County, Sullivan County and others . . . speaking of directors of day training centers now . . . **WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER** awaiting Governor's action on Demonstration Voc. Rehab Project . . . pushing hard for a State School in Westchester . . . Mr. Vernon Department of Recreation again providing a summer day camp . . . New Rochelle sponsors day camp for exceptional children through Board of Education . . . Also White Plains, Port Chester, New Castle, Katonah and Pelham Manor . . . Newsletter really full of stuff . . . more than 400 Great Neck Teenagers took place in house-to-house canvas for **NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER**, April 3rd and 4th . . . collected more than \$4,000 . . . **CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER** voted to award \$25.00 Savings Bond to Senior from Albany County whose essay was judged best from that county . . . invites all to take a spin to the ARC meeting . . . spin means, student-parent-instructor-night . . . Mrs. Murray Reswick one of the founders of **CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CHAPTER**, given a life membership in a PTA in recognition of her work . . . approximately 80 friends and parents attended teacher and volunteer recognition night at the **CAYUGA COUNTY SCHOOL** for **RETARDED CHILDREN** . . . John Weems, acting as ad-



Mrs. David Collins lends a hand to Mrs. William Garber planning parent education series in Schenectady.

ministrator, presided . . . you have read elsewhere about the big move of the **MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER** to 178 Charlotte Street . . . open house attended by Ruth Gross, State President . . . season will be six weeks at Camp Rainbow . . . the ARC summer day camp . . . new Chapter **OTSEGO COUNTY** report a \$400 profit from a variety show staged for the chapter's benefit by the Laurens PTA . . . Ken Hammond, high salesman with \$134.50 worth of patron ads and ticket sales to his credit . . . Mr. Little, teacher of a special class in Cherry Valley, (what a beautiful place) made extensive survey of the County's 13 schools finding that of the 10 Schools replying, we have a total of 248 retarded children in school . . . 181 of these are enrolled in the 12 special classes reported . . . having a booth at the County Fair to educate the public . . . plans for first full chapter year is to have training session to better educate ourselves so we can pass on our knowledge to the public . . .

(Continued Next Column)

## NEW CENTER FOR RETARDED IN ERIE COUNTY

The Erie County Chapter officially opened its new facility at 470 Franklin Street, earlier this year with the ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of a memorial plaque to a benefactor.

Down payment for the 4-story building was provided through a more than \$5,000 bequest by Mrs. Teresa Summers who died in 1962.

The cost of renovating the building for \$25,000 was done through the aid of Western New York Foundation.

Included was the sum of \$12,000 provided by the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation whose supervisor, Walter E. Bell, attended the ceremonies at the new building.



Robert J. Hodgson, president Erie County Chapter proudly displays plaque to Whitworth Ferguson at new Chapter headquarters.

Association President, Robert J. Hodgson, said the building is actually a benevolent center that accepts all retarded persons from 3 to 30 who are ineligible for public school classes.

The center now has 38 children taking pre-kindergarten activities and eight young adults in a special workshop.

"By fall we expect about 60 children and 50 to 75 adults in our workshop," he said.

The Association is operating with United Fund's help, a contract with the Community Mental Health Board and aid from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation which has before it an application for an Expansion and Improvement Grant for staffing the workshop.

It is estimated that more than 1500 people attended the opening ceremonies.

### CHAPTER NEWS (Continued)

and will increase its treasury through the Holland Bulbs sales . . . and those of you who read this and don't know about the Holland Bulbs sales get in touch with John Bertrand . . . **COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER** (also a new one) full of activity . . . two fund raising projects . . . theatre party and dinner dance three weeks apart . . . have a canteen or record hop for retarded to be held at YWCA once a month . . . a roaring 20's evening presented by Parents-Teachers Association of **LAURENS Central School** for the benefit of **OTSEGO COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . you should see the program . . . **SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER** concluded parent ed courses in June . . . has turned movie maker this past spring . . . publicity committee wrote a screen play for a picture about the training center and its programs . . . looking forward to its Expansion and Improvement Grant for its sheltered workshop . . . **BENEVOLENT SOCIETY — WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER** honored Dr. Robert Guthrie at its Annual Luncheon last May . . . More than 1,500 guests attended . . . Shirley Epstein, President, most active in improving conditions at Willowbrook State School . . . new beauty parlor is now opened and in use at Willowbrook . . . Long Island Auxiliary of Benevolent Society supplied shampoo sinks, chairs and driers and various other items . . . Mrs. Hammond, wife of Jack Hammond, director, is supervisor of Volunteer Service at Willowbrook . . . most active in this difficult field . . . has an interesting reminder in its Newsletter that you do not have to be the parent of a retarded child to be a member of the Association . . . some of the annual funds raised by the Bellringer campaign in **ALLEGANY COUNTY** will go for camperships for the Chapter.



## TOMPKINS COUNTY CHAPTER PROGRESS REPORT

We cannot improve in any way on the report sent in by Pat Corcoran, president of the Tompkins County Chapter, so we are going to quote in full as we got it. It follows:

### TOMPKINS COUNTY CHAPTER

"Isn't this some kind of Record?"

Charter was granted September 1964 (26 members)

Hired Teacher and opened Day Training Center, December, 1964.

Arts and Crafts — Music Therapy — Bowling — Physical Education — Typing Class — Woodworking — Outside Visits to Industry — Academic Studies, etc.



L. to R. Dorothy Saperstone, membership chairman, Pat Corcoran, president, Dave Auble, finance chairman, and Mrs. Wilma Lloyd, teacher, look at display with one of the trainees.

Membership Drive March 1965, increased over 500% — Now at 160.

Plans completed for Outdoor Day Camp with cooperation of Youth Bureau and Board of Education.

Plans in discussion stages for our own Building, to include Resale Store.

Plans in the making for Sheltered Work Shop, Our Grant to be applied for."

## MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER NEW AND LARGER QUARTERS

An improved rehabilitation program for the mentally retarded recently began when the Monroe County Chapter moved into expanded quarters.

The new facility allowed the Association to provide more rehabilitation services to a greater number of patients, according to John Regan, Executive Director, by bringing together two related aid programs that have been operating in separate places.

The agency's new location is a two-story brick and concrete building at 178 Charlotte Street, which formerly housed bowling lanes.

The lower floor will contain the Association's work training center. The new location will be able to take care of more than 95 trainees as compared with only 60 in the old quarters at 125 College Avenue.

The Association's day training center, now at General Hospital's West Side Division is geared to the needs of retarded who do not qualify for the work training program.

The training center is scheduled to occupy the second floor of the new headquarters.

The Charlotte Street building was leased several months ago for a three year period. Moving and remodeling was accomplished by a number of volunteer groups, including the Junior Chamber of Commerce and local Hi-Y clubs.

Three of the second-floor bowling lanes were retained during remodeling and the Association is looking for a manual pin-setting device.

"We intend to use the bowling alleys as part of the day training center program, to teach the retarded the use of leisure time," Mr. Regan said.

## NEW CHAPTERS LEAD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The 1965-1966 Membership Campaign of the Association can readily be qualified as a great success, reports Paul W. Hermon, Northeast Regional Vice-President and Chairman of the Membership Committee. Spearheaded by several of our new Chapters and Institution groups, 10 of our 46 Chapters went over their membership quotas, and 3 more came within 10% of reaching this goal.

As of this writing, the total membership received stood at 17,059, which is an increase of 1,985 over the total membership obtained in the 1964-1965 membership year. This represents an increase of approximately 14%, which should get even larger as the year progresses.

Special mention must go to our new Chapter in Columbia County, Mrs. Marsha Goldman, Membership Chairman, which had its first meeting last November. The Chapter, with a membership goal of 75 members, brought in 217 people for the outstanding record.

Tompkins County, which has already been in the Association since October, and is, therefore, eligible to compete in the National Membership Drive, would seem to stand some very good chance of receiving national recognition for having increased their membership from 26 members in 1964-65 to 159 members this year and obtaining 212% of their membership goal of 75. Mrs. Dorothy Saperstone was the Membership Chairman who produced this magnificent effort in Tompkins County.

## ULSTER COUNTY CHAPTER AIDS WASSAIC COLONY

With the combined efforts of Murray E. Weiss, executive director of the Ulster County Chapter, Dr. George Etl-ing, director of Wassaic State School, Dr. Charles Angelo, assistant director of Wassaic State School, and the director of Scardefield House (Wassaic Colony), Kingston, a practical academic course has been planned for the girls in the Colony in Kingston. Mr. Richard J. Davis will be the instructor in the course.

The course and purpose of the project is to reinforce academic learning directly related to a job. A class of 10 girls will be given instruction in the areas of learning reading, writing and related subjects oriented in a practical and concrete manner.

The curriculum will cover work areas such as sewing, general factory work, bench assembly, service work and social skills.

## FOUR NEW CHAPTERS ADMITTED AT SPRING BOARD MEETING

The spring meeting of the Board of Governors saw the admission of four new Chapters, Tioga, Otsego, Columbia, and Schoharie.

With the admission of these, the number of chapters is now 46. No chapters are less than on a county basis, and some cover several counties.

Staff is hard put to visit all the Chapters, many straining to establish new services with all asking for help in negotiating with United Funds, Chests, fund raising and Community Mental Health Boards.

The Executive Director of the State Association, an old business man, abhors building overhead, but does anyone know a good field man (or woman) willing to work for very little, if anything?

REMEMBER THE DATES —

OCTOBER 14th, 15th, 16th & 17th



## TWELFTH ANNUAL TEACHERS CONFERENCE HUGE SUCCESS

More than 150 teachers, psychologists and administrators from all over the state together with volunteers and parents met at the Twelfth Annual Teachers Conference co-sponsored by the State Department of Education and the New York State Association for Retarded Children on Saturday, May 22nd, in New York City.

"The Mentally Retarded in Our Changing Society," the theme of the Conference was a stimulant to all those concerned with program development and implementation in the public schools in the state.

The plan of the Education Committee, headed by Mr. James Maroon, is to expand the Conference to include more and more teachers of the educable.

"We should like to get foundation or Federal Funds," said Mr. Maroon, "in order to subsidize some of these teachers who can't afford to make the trip and whose school district will not finance it."

## STEINGUT HONORED

A picnic grove in the Community League Park at the Wassaic State School for the retarded has been named in honor of Assemblyman Stanley Steingut by the Community League — Wassaic Chapter of the Association.

According to Mrs. Leo Fixler, president of the Chapter, this tribute is in recognition of Mr. Steingut's "dedicated service" on behalf of programs to aid the retarded.

The Chapter honored the legislator at its 13th annual luncheon on April 10th at the Biltmore Hotel, where more than 700 persons attended.

The Community League contributes approximately \$10,000 a year for recreational programs, therapeutic equipment, TV and radio sets, toys and gifts for youngsters and trips for the patients.

## NO STAFFING AID FOR MENTAL RETARDATION FACILITIES

### FEDERAL BILL OMITS RETARDED

The House has passed HR 2985, which authorizes Federal assistance in meeting the initial cost of professional and technical personnel for comprehensive community mental health centers, which are being developed under Title II of the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Center Construction Act of 1964.

But the bill has left out completely any help for professional and technical personnel in the mental retardation facilities included under Title I of the same Act.

Assistance in this staffing is limited in any one case to 90% of the cost of staffing for the first 15 months, 60% for the next year, 45% the following year, and 30% for the final year.

In the case of facilities for the mentally retarded, however, there will be no money forthcoming for staffing. In the opinion of an Association spokesman, this will be a great deterrent in the development of construction planning for the mentally retarded.

The National Association for Retarded Children has opposed the inclusion of help for staffing for Mental Retardation Facilities in this Act. Queried by the State Association, the reply of the National Association was that the needs for staffing for Mental Retardation Facilities are so great that they did not want to limit them to initial staffing tied in with construction.

The position of the New York State Association for Retarded Children is that any help we can get in staffing will be an enormous step forward in the production of facilities for the mentally retarded.

The State Association is urging Senators Jacob Javits and Robert Kennedy to amend the Senate version of this bill to include staffing for the Mental Retardation Facilities.

All members of the Association reading this article, and others, are urged to write to Senators Javits and Kennedy urging this change.

## SEEN AT THE TEACHER'S CONFERENCE



"Anyhow, I'm taller than you," Jerry Weingold to Ruth Gross, President.



Faculty and Planning Committee in final briefing before "blast off".



The lovely ladies of the lunch line. L. to R. Elizabeth Foley, Gertrude Winik, Teresa Harris, Evelyn McDonell, and Teresa Cestar.



Mrs. Derfla Williams leading teachers of the trainable in discussion.



## PROGRESS BY ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER

In a letter to the New York Office in which Bob Hodgson complains, "Into every life a little rain must fall and it is my sad duty to tell you that I have been re-elected for another year as President of Erie County Chapter," he also includes a most stimulating and instructive chronicle of progress by the County.

It follows:

In June they received their first governmental grant of nearly \$12,000 from DVR to provide facilities and equipment for vocational training and sheltered employment. These are now completed and await a grant for staffing;

In July the American Legion gave them their first station wagon to help transportation problems, particularly in the pre-school Buffalo group;

In cooperation with the Rehab Center they were able to offer a full week of residential camping for over 100 youngsters at Cradle Beach;

They were able to secure the services of Dr. Pitkin as Medical Director and psychiatrist in the face of a tremendous shortage of child psychiatrists in Erie County;

In October they entered their first contract with the Community Mental Health Board for over \$100,000;

Received largest legacy from the Estate of Theresa Summers (slightly over \$5,000);

In November they were able with the help of the Buffalo Savings Bank and the State Association to purchase 470 Franklin Street at a price of \$50,000, for the first time giving the Chapter a convenient and completely fireproof facility, centrally located, with room for all foreseeable expansion for the Buffalo program;

In December received grant of \$2,500 from the Western New York Foundation for classrooms and equipment with additional \$2,500 to follow in 1966;

In January the Cummings Foundation gave them an additional grant of \$14,000 to complete remodeling, equipping and repairing;

In February they received a supplemental allotment of \$7,400 from the United Fund;

During the winter an auxiliary group of over fifty women was established in East Aurora;

In March, they were able to provide day training services on a three-day a week basis to a non-ambulatory group in the Town of West Seneca. This is the first extension of the day training program into the county;

Began a series of six parent discussion groups under the leadership of Dr. Parnes of State University;

April began a regular weekly evening recreation program at the Center for young adults;

Dedicated a new building in April with outstanding television, radio and newspaper coverage;

Had an increase of 61% membership over the total for last year;

Newspaper reactivated on a regular basis;

This summer under CMHB contract will re-activate summer day camp program.

## TENNESSEE TAKES OVER TEN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

In a bill recently passed by the Tennessee legislature and signed by Governor Clement, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation was authorized to establish a system of vocational training centers for the mentally retarded and other handicapped persons.

The system must include the ten "Volunteer Vocational Centers" operated by the Tennessee Association for Retarded Children and Adults, under the terms of an OVR Grant.

There is considerable division of opinion as to whether a state should operate such sheltered workshops or they should be operated by the community.

A spokesman for the New York State Association of Sheltered Workshops and Homebound Programs asked why the State did not make contributions to the voluntary organization to help them out of financial difficulties which may have necessitated this measure.

## HUMANITARIAN AWARD TO WEINGOLD



Helen Kaplan, executive director, Nassau County Chapter, presents Humanitarian award to Joseph T. Weingold, executive director State Association, at the 12th Annual Rose Ball at the New York Hilton. Elliot Aronin, president of the chapter looks on.

## STATE ASSOCIATION OFFERS LOCAL FUND RAISING AIDS

In recent months the State Association has sent out a number of bulletins to the Chapters, making them aware of various Fund Raising Programs the State Office offers. We are sad, indeed, to say that the response to this has been rather negligible, so we thought we would like to call this to the attention of our readers in the hope of stirring up local Chapter interest and support.

One of the projects which has been adopted by three of our Chapters, Chenango, Otsego and Lewis Counties, is the sale of Hollands Glory Flower Bulbs. This sale was first undertaken last year by the Chenango County Chapter. This Chapter had a very successful sale at which 1400 boxes of bulbs were sold with a profit of \$560 coming into the local Chapter's treasury. This was felt to be a very good undertaking for small Chapters without much money to invest, since the program calls for checking orders first, then collecting money from one's customers when the bulbs are delivered and remitting the company's share at that time.

For Chapters with small treasuries, the advantage of being able to raise money without having to make any investment initially seemed like a very good idea.

John Bertrand of our Association ordered a few boxes of the bulbs from Chenango County last year, and both he and his wife will attest to the fact that they were high quality flowers which lived up to their guarantee and added a great deal of beauty to their home.

We hope that if Chapters do not get into this project themselves, they might at least consider ordering some bulbs from those who are in the project, as a neighborly boost.

The other item which has been doing quite well is the sale of front-end license plates for automobiles which read, "RETARDED CHILDREN CAN BE HELPED." The plates are made of glow-in-the-dark material. Not only can they provide a small safety feature for one's automobile, as well as advertise for retarded children, but might have other uses such as reflectors on rural mailbox posts, etc. Out of 500 ordered by the State Association, over half have already been sold to the Chapters, and it is hoped that those who have not participated as yet will be ordering some plates soon.





Officers of the Yuletiders present a check for \$800 to Bernard M. Fineson, member of the Board of the City Chapter.

## PROGRESS IN PKU BLOOD SCREENING

In March 1965 the Children's Bureau, through its regional offices, queried each State Health Department as to the number of hospitals in the State which were currently doing blood screening of newborn infants. A similar survey had been conducted in the late summer of 1964 and a map prepared as of October 1964. The following is a summary comparison of the data obtained in the two surveys:

Proportion of hospitals with maternity services, which are doing blood screening	Number of States	
	October 1964	March 1965
Total (50 States & D. C.)	51	51
90 — 100 percent	9	14
50 — 89 percent	3	7
1 — 49 percent	32	29
None	7	1

Thus, considerable progress was made within a short period of time toward the goal of screening all newborn infants. The number of States in which blood screening was being carried out in 90 percent or more of the hospitals increased from 9 to 14, whereas the number of States in which no hospitals were doing blood screening declined from 7 to 1.

The new survey also found that as of March 1965 more than 2,600 hospitals in the country were doing blood screening of newborn infants.

New York State is one of the fourteen states in which 90-100 percent of the hospitals with maternity services are doing blood screening.

It was the second state in the United States to pass legislation mandating testing for PKU.

## NEIL LIEBLICH, MEMBER OF BOARD OF ADVISORS, DIES

On July 7th, Neil Lieblich, a friend and advisor of the Association for Retarded Children from its very inception, died suddenly of a massive heart attack.

Only 55, Neil Lieblich, had crowded many years of service into his life. At the time of his death, he was Commissioner of Servicemen's voting in the State of New York and he was also Chancellor of the State's Knights of Pythias in their 100th year.

His activities covered many spheres of interests, but especially that of children and handicapped children. He was a member of the Board of Jewish Child Care Council for many years. He assisted the New York City Chapter in the formation of a number of auxiliaries and represented the Association as an attorney. His advice and counsel was sought by many organizations in the field.

He is survived by his widow, Sarah, and one son, Ira.

## JOB OUTLOOK FOR RETARDED BRIGHTER

The future looks bright for mentally retarded workers aiming for service occupations, according to a Special Report from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

According to a new Department of Labor report, "The Mentally Retarded: Their Special Training Needs," service occupations are growing at a faster pace than any other occupational area in which the retarded have a chance of qualifying.

Predicted the report: the total number of workers in service jobs in America is expected to rise from 8,300,000 in 1960 to 11,000,000 in 1970 and to 12,500,000 in 1975.

This rate of growth is faster than the average growth of the entire American work force in the years ahead.

The mentally retarded are being placed in service jobs in greater numbers than in jobs in any other category, the report notes. It cited two surveys:

An American Institute for Research survey of 48 agencies serving the retarded showed that 46 percent of all placements were in service occupations.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration revealed that in 1963, 40 percent of placements of the retarded were in service occupations.

The report described future prospects for specific jobs within the service category, for which the retarded can be trained. It found that employment in kitchen jobs increased almost 50 percent between 1950 and 1960 (204,000 to 304,000); that hospitals and other institutions added nearly 200,000 attendants between 1950 and 1960, a 90 percent increase; the employment of janitors, charwomen, and maids has risen steadily over the years. Janitors increased 30 percent from 1950 to 1960 (460,000 to 600,000); charwomen by one-half (120,000 to 180,000); chambermaids and maids, except in private households, by one-third (121,000 to 165,000). In addition, the number of gardeners (except farm) and groundskeepers has grown from 146,000 in 1950 to 195,000 in 1960, and is still going up.

The great majority of the mentally retarded can support themselves at jobs demanding lower levels of skills, if employers give them the chance, the report found.

As to numbers, of the nation's total of nearly 6,000,000 mentally retarded persons, 3,300,000 of them are of working age (14 to 64).

Of the retarded of working age, more than 85 percent, or 2,900,000, have relatively mild degrees of retardation (IQs between 50 and 70), and have the capabilities of being trained for less-skilled jobs.

As to the future, by 1970, the number of retarded persons of working age will stand at 3,700,000.

Will the capable among them find jobs? It's up to us.

The report is available without cost by writing to the Office of Manpower, Automation and Training, Manpower Administration, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. 20210.

## HARRIS H. GREENE, ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER, DIES

Harris H. Greene, 61, of Owera Point, Cazenovia, Syracuse, attorney and certified public accountant, died recently in University Hospital in Syracuse.

Harris Greene was one of the charter members of the Onondaga County Association. He lived in the area for 58 years, was a member of the New York State Bar Association and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

He was a member of the Onondaga County Retarded Children's Association board of directors.

In the death of Harris Greene, the Association has lost one of its stalwart champions and progressive thinkers. He cannot be replaced.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Esther F. Greene; two sons, Richard and Edward, both of Cazenovia; two brothers, Samuel Greene and Benjamin Greenberg, both of Syracuse; and two sisters, Mrs. Ida Fried and Mrs. Frances May, both of New York City.



sustaining regardless of age. It also includes a provision that any child who is mentally or physically disabled so as to be incapable of self sustainment in employment and who is included on a family contract for hospital or health insurance, shall continue on such contracts beyond the age when usually terminated upon 30 days notice to the Company of this condition and proof.

In the past, all children have been removed from family contract, usually at the age of 19, and had to get their own insurance. Even in cases where the Companies would write such insurance for mentally retarded persons, it represented an unwarranted financial burden on the family because these persons are not self sustaining financially. This was the first time the bill had been introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee.

The bill for the testing of "under-achievers", had been introduced at two previous sessions and vetoed both times. The present bill does not state at what intervals such youngsters must be tested. This is left to the regulations of the Commissioner. Its purpose is to discover those children who need special aid and who are not getting it, usually because the school districts are not making an effort to ascertain their disabilities.

The amendment to the Public Health Law that no child shall be deprived of a right to physical restoration and other services solely by reason of the degree of mental retardation was occasioned by the fact that a number of Health Departments in the Counties have been refusing such services to such children. An example is the refusal to have an operation performed on a club foot of a mongoloid infant. Another example is the refusal to provide diagnostic services and treatment services for a child with epilepsy because the child is mentally retarded. The Governor's signature to this bill will enable us to obtain such services for such children in areas where they have been deprived.

In addition to the veto of the reimbursement bill, the Governor vetoed a bill that would permit judges to treat mentally retarded accused of crimes as youthful offenders regardless of age. This was the second time that the Governor has vetoed this bill. The reasons he gave are those presented by the Temporary Commission on Recodification which has not yet come around to the Code of Criminal Procedure.

It is interesting to note, the Governor also cites the Department of Mental Hygiene, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Correction, the New York State Bar Association and the Citizens Committee for Children of New York City, all opposed to this bill.

In commenting on this, our Executive Director said, "With all these in opposition to this bill, it is obvious that we are correct in our approach". This measure is merely permissive for the judges. It is purely procedural and does not go to question of mental retardation as a defense to an act. It will probably be re-introduced as will all the others that were vetoed.

The school district bill merely tries to overcome a defect in the Education Law. All the school districts with less than 8 trainable children or 10 educable children are mandated to contract with another school district, etc. The district approached has no obligation to receive these children. This bill tried to correct that situation.

The bill to provide mandatory education for the mentally retarded in the state schools from the age of 5 to 21 was, we are informed, backed by the Department of Mental Hygiene. Since the Governor did not issue any memorandum with the veto, we cannot know the reason for it.

The veto to enlarge the powers of the Boards of Visitors to choose one of its members to sit in on all investigations of alleged acts of brutality in the state schools, is to be expected in the light of the Department of Mental Hygiene's opposition to all Boards of Visitors and any enlargement of their powers. The bill as finally passed was a watered-down version of the Association's bill which called for the enlargement of the powers of the Boards of Visitors so that they could bring charges against any employee of the state school. Now this power is limited to bringing charges against directors only.

The Constitutional Amendment which does not require the Governor's signature seeks to overcome the Constitutional prohibition against the State pledging its credit or aiding private organizations in the field of the mentally ill or mentally retarded. The State is permitted to do so for the physically handicapped but not for the mentally retarded. This prohibition in the Constitution has many implications for legislation and it is hoped that it will finally be passed by the next legislature and a referendum to make it part of the law.

The following bills introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee failed to pass:

A bill permitting voluntary organizations to appeal to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene in cases where Mental Health Boards refuse to enter into contract with them and where no county or city funds are available;

A bill permitting persons trained in education, psychology and social work, as well as medicine to qualify as directors of state schools;

A bill providing for a salary differential of 10% for teachers of the handicapped;

And finally, a bill to amend the Education Law to provide for increased aid to school districts for special classes through weighting such pupils for average daily attendance.

A number of other bills significant for the mentally retarded, were passed and signed.

One of these, is a bill that amends the Education Law to provide that gifts and donations may be offered conditionally for vocational rehabilitation and be received and used for Federal matching funds.

This is an enabling act to take advantage of the Federal law recently passed. Under this, for example, an organization may offer to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, \$5,000 for a project to start a workshop or to increase services in a workshop, conditional that it be matched by Federal funds and returned to that organization. This was not possible previously.

The bill to provide for a program of inoculation to raise the immunity of children against measles to the highest reasonable level, was passed by the legislature on the basis of testimony before the Public Health Committee reported in the last issue of O. C. V.

Two important measures were passed and signed to aid the construction of mental retardation facilities. The first measure adds to the powers of mental health boards that of entering into a contract for the construction or other acquisition of mental retardation facilities and community mental health centers. These are made eligible for state reimbursement of  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Reimbursement of services remains at  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

This will aid materially in implementation of Federal Law (88-164), under which the Federal share is about  $\frac{1}{3}$ . The State can now match one third, with the rest coming from the community.

The second measure amends the Mental Hygiene Law and Private Housing Finance Law to assist with the construction and financing of community mental health centers and mental retardation facilities. The local share of the construction under this could be financed through the fund. Bonds and notes would be repaid out of rentals received from the cities and counties. The fund can only act if requested to assist in a project approved by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, the Governor and the Legislature.

Both of these measures were recommended by the Task Force on Finance of which Joseph T. Weingold is Chairman.

To these measures we would like to add one more item in the record. This was a measure introduced by Senator Kraf and Assemblyman Sullivan to repeal that section of the Criminal Code and the Mental Hygiene Law which imposes a criminal liability on the relatives who fail to meet support payment for patients in the institutions. The bill was opposed by the Department of Mental Hygiene which also opposed the reimbursement bill.

The Joint Legislative Committee was continued for another year with a \$50,000 appropriation. This did not need the Governor's signature.



# NEW LAW AFFECTS INSANITY "MENTAL DEFECTS"

The state's rigid laws on criminal insanity have been liberalized under a bill signed by Governor Rockefeller.

The change, which essentially brings the state's legal definition of criminal insanity closer into line with modern psychiatric views, had been sought for years by lawyers, judges, psychiatrists and the state's Department of Mental Hygiene.

The new statute broadens the 122-year-old so-called McNaghten Rule. This has been interpreted by the state courts to mean that only a person with a total mental incapacity to tell right from wrong can be excused from responsibility for a crime of any kind.

In the new law, for the idea of total mental incapacity, it substituted the concept of "substantial" incapacity. On the question whether the defendant "knows" that his act was wrong, it widens the language to "know or appreciate".

The specific wording in the new statute says: "A person is not criminally responsible for conduct if at the time of such conduct as a result of mental disease or defect he lacks substantial capacity to know or appreciate either (a) the nature or consequence of such conduct, or (b) that such conduct was wrong".

Another significant departure in the bill is that it permits psychiatrists to give complete testimony on the mental condition of the defendant.

Under the old law psychiatrists were generally limited to answering only "yes" or "no" as to whether the defendant was suffering from a total mental disability at the time of the crime.

Assemblyman Richard J. Bartlett, Glens Falls Republican, stated that the bill was not as liberal as he had hoped. His original version, he said, was opposed by the state's district attorneys and the final measure was worked out as a compromise.

The bill as originally drafted had an additional section that would have excused a defendant of criminal responsibility if he was unable "to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law".

Mr. Bartlett said that he thought his insanity bill would end the rigidity of the McNaghten Rule. But, he added, if it proves in the courts to be still too narrow and restrictive he will press for passage of his original, more liberal version.

The McNaghten Rule takes its name from an 1843 English case. A man named Daniel McNaghten tried to assassinate Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister, and killed the leader's secretary by mistake. The assassin was acquitted as insane.

Some years later the reasoning used by the Court in acquitting McNaghten came into use in courts here in the United States. New York State made it part of its penal law in the eighteen-eighties.

These changes have significance in the field of mental retardation because mental defect is usually coupled with insanity when speaking of the defense to charges of criminal acts.

The complete study of "The Mentally Retarded and the Law" is now being made by the National Law Center of the George Washington University, Washington, D. C. It is supported by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The study will bring together and analyze the existing laws in every jurisdiction; study the operation of these laws; bring to bear the insights and perspectives of a variety of disciplines, including law, medicine, psychology, sociology, criminology and social work; establish and maintain liaison with professional and lay groups working with the retarded, and with persons and agencies responsible for the administration and enforcement of laws affecting the retarded; derive from such study and analysis, guidelines for new legislation; and finally, publish the findings and recommendations in a form appropriate for use by individuals and groups interested in the improvement of laws and practices affecting the mentally retarded.



## MINIATURE MUSIC LOVER HARMONIZES WITH OPERA STAR

— Metropolitan Opera star, Robert Merrill, autographs picture for three and a half year old Karen DiTomaso of Brooklyn, New York. Karen was recently elected 1965-66 Poster Child for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, New York City Chapter. Mr. Merrill was one of the contest judges. The famed baritone sails for Israel June 19th, where he will give six performances of "Othello."

## A.A.M.D. ISSUES NEW DIRECTORY

The American Association on Mental Deficiency has published a new Directory of Residential Facilities for the Mentally Retarded.

This is probably the most complete directory of such facilities now in existence and is highly recommended for those who wish to have this as a resource book.

Describing the state, as well as private schools for the mentally retarded, it gives admission policy, residence population, age level, level of retardation accepted, programs, personnel, and fees charged.

Copies may be obtained from the American Association on Mental Deficiency, P. O. Box 96, Willimantic, Conn. 06226. The price is \$3.00.

## PLANNING (Continued from Page 11)

In addition to a critique of the preliminary plans as submitted by the staff of the Planning Committee, the Association presented six position papers. These included:

1. Separation of Mental Retardation from the Department of Mental Hygiene;
2. A separate Community Mental Retardation Services Act;
3. A new agency for follow-up and implementation of any plan that is finally arrived at;
4. A new and different concept on the construction of institutional facilities from the 1,000-bed concept;
5. Regional centers for the mentally retarded;
6. The abolition of Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund.

The last position paper occasioned a great deal of discussion and argument at the meeting of the Committee in Saratoga. The rationale for the abolition of the Mental Hygiene Facility Improvement Fund was the position of the Governor that, under the Fund, present fees received by the Department of Mental Hygiene from patients and relatives must be maintained in order to satisfy purchasers of the bonds.

The danger, it was pointed out, was that the Department and the State seemed to be committed to a policy of keeping the institutions filled in order to maintain fees.

After considerable argument, a vote was taken and it was carried that, unless earmarking of fees from patients and relatives be divorced from the support of the Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund, the fund be abolished.

The full text appears on page 12



# "KEYS TO PROGRESS" STATE CONVENTION THEME

Under the theme "Keys to Progress", the State Convention this year will review with the delegates and visitors the new horizons that have been opened for services for the mentally retarded through Federal and other legislation.

In addition to the business meetings and tours, the series of workshops will examine the implications of these programs for the mentally retarded.

Such items as the Mental Retardation Facilities Construction Act of 1963; the new Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments to the Federal and State Laws; and the Hospital Improvement Programs and New Construction will be discussed in depth.

The preliminary convention program follows:

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1965

3:00 P.M. Meeting of Chapter Presidents & Executive Directors

Two Sections: New Chapters; Older Chapters

8:00 P.M. Meeting of Board of Governors

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1965

9:00 A.M. Meeting of Board of Governors

10:00 A.M. all day — Registration

12:00 noon Luncheon — at large

1:30-4:30 P.M. Tours — Mt. McGregor Division — Rome State School

5:30-6:30 P.M. Social Hour

6:30-7:30 P.M. Dinner at large

## CONVENTION (Continued)

8:00 P.M. Convention convenes "The Association Looks at State Planning"—Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, N. Y. State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., followed by panel discussion.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1965

9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Registration — Exhibits

9:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. Business session

1:15 P.M.-2:15 P.M. Luncheon — at large

2:30 P.M.-4:00 P.M. Concurrent Workshops

1. Mental Retardation Facilities Construction — The Federal-State Program.

2. New Vistas in Vocational Rehabilitation — 1965 Amendments to State & Federal Laws.

3. The Institution: H. I. P. Plans — New Construction.

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

6:00-7:15 P.M. Reception

7:30 P.M. Banquet

Presentation of Awards — State Essay Contest

Outstanding State-School Employee Award

Installation of New Board

10:00 P.M.-2:00 A.M. Dancing

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1965

9:30 A.M. General Session

11:30 A.M. Meeting of Newly Elected Board

12:30 P.M. Adjournment.

## ADVANCE REGISTRATION — CONVENTION

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 14, 15, 16, 17, 1965

TO: MRS. WILLIAM EDDY  
Old Gick Road, R. D. No. 2  
Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

I wish to register in advance for the following events. My check/money-order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 3.00
Tour, Friday, October 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	1.00
Reception, Saturday, October 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.00
Banquet, Saturday, October 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	5.35

TOTAL \$11.35

(Name)

(Address)

NOTE: All hotel reservations should be made directly with Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, New York.

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CHILDREN, INC.

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