

Retarded Children Can Be Helped!



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DECEMBER, 1965

STATE UNIT URGED FOR THE RETARDED

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR RETARDED SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR

PLAN CALLS FOR 30 CENTERS FOR RETARDED

The state study committee on Mental Retardation unveiled on September 13, a plan designed to expand the care and treatment of the mentally retarded in New York State within the next ten years.

Entitled, "A Plan for a Comprehensive Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program for New York State", the report made numerous financial proposals but did not spell out the estimated cost of any of them.



Prexy and exec. of State ARC — Ruth Gross and Jerry Weingold cook up another unacceptable proposal.

Some of the recommendations have already been implemented by the 1965 Legislature at Rockefeller's behest.

Some are embodied in current plans of the State Department of Mental Hygiene, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education and others.

Some of the major recommendations of the report on Mental Retardation are:

- 30 Community Mental Retardation Centers consisting of an integrated complex of services located at each of thirty easily accessible points throughout the State, with no center serving a population in excess of 750,000.

- The realization of the entire network of community centers within ten years by the scheduled establishment of at least 3 centers each year.

- Each community center to develop and embrace a range of specialized facilities and programs including a State School residential unit, and a unit for close coordination with general community services such as education, health and social welfare.

- Full utilization of the State Community Mental Health Services Act and the powers and duties of commun-

STATE CONVENTION CALLS FOR NEW AGENCY TO MEET SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN

The parents of mentally retarded children, through the New York State Association for Retarded Children, demanded at their State Convention in Saratoga Springs on October 17th that Governor Rockefeller create a new agency to care for the mentally retarded.

They complained bitterly that the State Department of Mental Hygiene has for years focused its energies on mental illness and has shamefully neglected the needs of the retarded.

Creation of a new office was the major item in a legislative program drafted at the Convention.

The delegates, each with a deep personal knowledge of the problems of retardation, convened just about a month after Senator Robert F. Kennedy set in motion a wave of public indignation over conditions in state institutions for the retarded.

Joseph T. Weingold, the association's executive director, told the convention:

"In 38 years of the existence of the Department of Mental Hygiene, we have finally arrived at the present state of services for the retarded. The department has failed utterly to meet the standards of care for patients in the state schools for the mentally retarded.

"It would be completely useless to reorganize the department when mental retardation is a very secondary consideration in comparison to mental illness. The only remedy we can see is a separate department with its own commissioner."

Several officials of the Department of Mental Hygiene who tried to explain its program to the delegates found themselves the target of angry attacks.

"For years you've called us paranoid everytime we complain", one mother shouted. "When Senator Kennedy told the public how bad things are at Willowbrook and Rome, you said he was exaggerating, too.

"Then public opinion forced you to take a few short steps in the right direction. You brought in a few new therapists and teachers. And you say you've been planning to do this all along."

The one official who escaped the delegates' derision was Dr. Jack Hammond, director of the Willowbrook State School for the Retarded on Staten Island. It was Willowbrook that sustained the brunt of Senator Kennedy's attack.

The parents' affection for him was explained by some of the delegates as due to his acknowledgement of the impossible conditions at Willowbrook and his untiring efforts to remedy them.

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OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

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**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION
 FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.**
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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: **JAMES F. REVILLE**

Executive Director and Editor: **JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The following talk was delivered by James F. Reville upon his inauguration as President of the New York State Association for Retarded Children at its Annual Convention in Saratoga Springs:

"Thank you. Reverend Clergy, Mrs. Gross, Bernie, Distinguished Guests — Ladies and Gentlemen:

"Frankly, I stand here with very mixed emotions. I am honestly proud of the fact that you have selected me to be your president for this ensuing year and I will do all in my power to justify your faith in me. I am awed by the momentous job that lies ahead — because I feel that we are definitely on the verge of a breakthrough as far as services for our children are concerned. Again, I promise to strive to justify your faith in me.

"And I am humble in the understanding that the welfare of more than 500,000 children will be largely our responsibility — and for this I ask God's help, and I know my faith will be justified. Our problems are many — we have seen a little glimmer of light through the door in Albany — and have also had the experience of having the same door slammed in our faces. We're going to get a foot in that door and force it open. It is high time that we disregarded the polite approach and showed our strength. The total families concerned with more than 500,000 children must number close to a million votes — and we should not allow the people we vote into office to forget us.

"You are aware of the legislation that was passed this year — some of which was signed into bills and some vetoed by the Governor. The vetoed bills will, we hope, be put through again and we hope for success next time. You will be advised of the legislation that affects us and your cooperation to pressure your representatives will again be requested.

Jerry Weingold is relentless in his activities in this direction — and is our eyes and ears. He is in constant communication with the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap and Senator Kraf, the Chairman, has made him consultant to that Committee. We sincerely hope that the next Chairman will retain him in that capacity.

"At the N.A.R.C. Convention, Governor Rockefeller said that he shared our concern for the retarded child. We hope he is prepared to give us consistent, concrete evidence of it.

"Here I must pause to express my admiration for Ruth Gross, our retiring President, for her untiring efforts to get action from the Governor's office. I am, and most of us here assembled are, personally and emotionally involved in this problem of mental retardation. Our son is a retardate. Ruth was blessed with two normal sons, and her endeavors on our behalf, and her motives, were impersonal and unselfish. Thank you, from all of us.

"Senator Kennedy also addressed the N.A.R.C. Convention, not on the same program as the Governor, however, and painted a beautiful picture of villages and cities that may someday, with Federal grants, be established where the aged, the infirm and the retarded would live and

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REVILLE ELECTED PRESIDENT

James F. Reville, formerly president of the Welfare League for Retarded Children, Letchworth Village Chapter, was elected president of the New York State Association at its annual meeting.

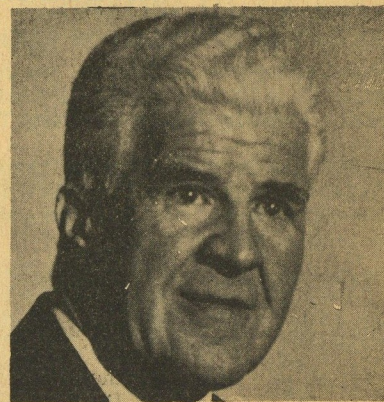
He attended Fordham Preparatory School, Fordham University and Columbia University and has been with Wm. M. Rosenbaum, members of the New York Stock Exchange for the past 20 years.

Mr. Reville has been a member of the Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter for 11 years. Under his leadership, Chairman of the Fund Raising Luncheon, their income increased more than 50%.

He has been on the Board of Governors of the New York State Association for 4 years and in 1964 was elected Vice President of the South East Region.

Mr. Reville has also served as a delegate to NARC conventions, had been a member of its Ways & Means Committee and during the 1965 Convention in New York, was the Floor Manager.

He is married and his wife shares his interests and activities in their work for retarded children. They have two daughters and a son.



James F. Reville

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT (Continued)

work peacefully and profitably together — where the pace would be geared to their ability. It is a wonderful dream — and I hope we may live to see its fulfillment — but we cannot afford to wait for dreams to come true. We must act now!! We must have adequate community facilities for our children, so that those at home are not deprived of their rights to education. The pre-school and after school activities must be made to include these special children. The school programs at the institutions must be enlarged to accommodate every child — not just a few for a few hours a day. We know, and must insist, that every child is educable to a degree and must be given the opportunity to develop whatever talent for learning he possesses. This is his right as a citizen — and we are all taxed for this.

"And that brings me to a very important point!! We can only accomplish our aims if we act as a united group. We must not allow ourselves, even in thought, to be separated into community and institution groups. The retarded child is who we must consider at all times — regardless of where he is. At all times we must be ready to assist any Chapter in need.

We cannot, in conscience, separate our desires. We must realize that, as long as a child remains in the community, the less crowded the institutions will be — but we must all work to have the standards of the institutions at such a level that should your child need custodial care — you could place him without reservation and without fear for his well-being.

"We have too long flirted with the idea of "Your Child" and "My Child" — and looked at each other suspect — the time has come for us to get married and learn to live together and care for our children. It is as simple as that.

"Thank you."

Kennedy Charges Neglect In State Schools For Retarded

LONG AWARE OF CONDITIONS, SAYS COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HYGIENE

The office of the acting Mental Hygiene Commissioner, Dr. Christopher F. Terrence, said in a statement that the Mental Hygiene Department and Governor Rockefeller had "long been aware of the difficulties faced by the State Schools as a result of overcrowding and understaffing stemming from rapidly increasing populations."

His office noted that the 1965-66 Budget included an increase of \$6. million to create 1,700 new staff jobs in State Schools.

The Director of Willowbrook, Dr. Jack Hammond, said Mr. Kennedy has spent only 90 minutes touring the Institution and picked out "a few frames from a series of flash pictures".

Dr. Charles Greenberg, Director of Rome School, said a pediatrician is in charge of the childrens building at the school. "With a pediatrician in charge, you can't say they are not getting medical aid," he said.

Wards A & C in Building No. 9 at the Staten Island Institution each contain 75 profoundly retarded and severely disturbed men. Kept docile by massive doses of tranquilizers, they represent a total negation of human dignity and hope.

"With proper facilities and adequate staff, something could be done to improve the conditions of these men," said Dr. Jack Hammond, director of the school.

"But there is nothing I can do now."

Without denying the severity of the criticism and conditions at Willowbrook State School, Dr. Jack Hammond is determined to do something about the conditions which have been neglected for more than 16 years.

Instead of herding 75 severely disturbed men in one ward, Dr. Hammond would put them into groups of no more than 15 each and give them therapeutic programs. But at the moment, there aren't even enough attendants to toilet train these men.

"They are being de-humanized," Dr. Hammond said, "nobody talks to them."

He also warned that if the children in the children's unit do not receive more training, attention and human contacts, many might become as profoundly retarded and disturbed as the men in Building No. 9.

What Senator Kennedy had said about Willowbrook was true enough, Dr. Hammond said, but he wished that the Senator had added a few kind words about his overworked staff and that the fact that some happy developments were taking place there.

"One of the main troubles," said Dr. Terrence, Acting Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, "is that the Department of Mental Hygiene is expected to provide superior care, for the retarded at an average cost of \$6.50 a day. For \$12 a day, I think we could give excellent care," he added.

Dr. Terrence was affected by the use of the word "brutality" by Senator Kennedy. "I don't know why he used that word," said Dr. Terrence. "I wouldn't say it never happens, but we are so vigorously in pursuit of it, we probably go in the other direction."

In spite of this statement by Dr. Terrence, the Department of Mental Hygiene has refused to permit parents of the children claimed to have been brutalized to sit in on hearings and in fact, in cases where there are direct accusations, they have refused to confront the accuser with the accused.

Although Dr. Terrence says that members of the Board of Visitors are welcome to sit in on hearings of alleged brutality, in fact there has never been any invitation to any member of such a Board to sit in on such investigations.

"ZOO" CONDITIONS SHOCK AND SADDEN R.F.K.

In testimony given before the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap, in the Bronx, New York on September 9th, Senator Robert F. Kennedy said he was "shocked and saddened" by what he saw at two State Schools for the mentally retarded.

Some of the patients he said were worse off than animals in the zoo.



Sen. Kennedy addressing Jt. Leg. Comm. L-R, Prof. Louis E. Rosenzweig, member advisory Committee, Joseph T. Weingold, Consultant, Sen. Harry Kraf, Chairman, and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"In the State of New York, in the year 1965, such conditions are intolerable."

Mr. Kennedy said in a statement prepared for the Committee that he visited the State School at Rome and the Willowbrook State School at Staten Island within the last week. He gave this description of what he saw:

"There are young children slipping into blankness and life-long dependence."

"There are crippled children without adequate medical attention or rehabilitative therapy."

"There are retarded children in the midst of severely disturbed adults."

"There are children and young adults without education and training programs adequate to prepare them for life in the community."

"And there are many — far too many — living in filth and dirt, their clothing in rags, in rooms less comfortable and cheerful than the cages in which we put animals in a zoo — without adequate supervision or a bit of affection — condemned to a life without hope."

"And", Senator Kennedy said, "children were crowded together without toys, books, or their own clothing."

"And what do they do during the day?" he asked. "Many just rock back and forth. They grunt and gibber and soil themselves. They take off their clothes. They struggle and quarrel — though great doses of tranquilizers usually keep them quiet and passive. But for the most part, they sit too often in dimness and gloom, and idleness and stench, staring at the wall or an attendant, or a occasional strange visitor."

Mr. Kennedy said he saw no toys or organized play. "Many children with severe physical handicaps," he said, "are in their beds all day or in little carts."

"They are," he said, "without exercise, without appetite, without strength, wasting away to permanent physical disability and near-death."

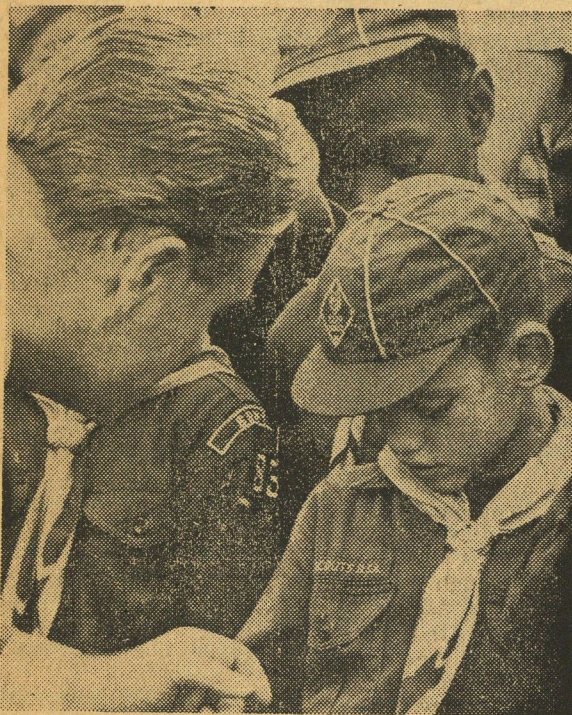
At Willowbrook, Senator Kennedy said there is only one tiny 6 x 12 foot room devoted to physical therapy, and

(Continued on Page 8)

RETARDED GETTING BETTER CARE — ROCKY STILL A LONG WAY TO GO, SAYS THE GOVERNOR

At the recent dedication of the new 240-bed infirmary at Craig Colony, School and Hospital at Sonyea, New York, Governor Rockefeller said that more mentally retarded children "are getting better care and greater personal attention from better trained people than ever before, all throughout the State."

"But," he said, "we still have a long way to go." His "deep personal concern" for better care for the mentally retarded prompted him to visit Craig Colony and Hospital, Rockefeller said.



Gov. Rockefeller meets a Cub Scout at Craig Colony.

The visit was planned during the summer and had nothing to do with the attack on state care for the retarded made earlier in September by U. S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, he added.

In an address to the New York State Associated Press Broadcasters Association at Lake George, Kennedy noted that Rockefeller had outlined advances made under his administration in the mental health care field. He then said:

"We cannot look to the past. We must look to the future. All of us must cooperate with Governor Rockefeller in dealing with a difficult problem."

Rockefeller was the first Governor to visit Craig Colony since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1931.

"I want to see the patients and the people helping them," Rockefeller said.

"I want a first hand look at the greatest construction and modernization program at Craig Colony in history."

He toured the new 240-bed infirmary and reminded staff and patients that a second new facility with a capacity of 260 beds is under construction and that 8 dormitory buildings were being renovated.

Although overcrowding has been reduced from 33% to 21% since the Governor took office, he said, "I shall not be satisfied until overcrowding is completely eliminated."

(Continued Next Column)

RFK'S CRITICISM LACKS SOME IMPORTANT FACTS, STATES GANNETT NEWS SERVICE, DAVE BEETLE

In an article in the Albany Knickerbocker News, Friday, September 10th, David H. Beetle, of the Gannett News Service, adds some interesting material to Senator Kennedy's blast about the State Schools for the mentally retarded.

In commenting on the \$600 million program for mental health facilities, which the Governor has outlined, Mr. Beetle writes:

"It comes at a time when nationally the emphasis is on preventive, community-level care designed to eradicate a need for the huge institutions which the Governor seems interested in shoring up and, in some cases, expanding.

"The charges have been made that the department (of Mental Hygiene) has built up a bureaucracy more interested in 'real estate' than therapies.

"New York unhappily in years gone by has gone in for more vast impersonal institutions than anyone. Today it has in Willowbrook (population nearly 6,000) the largest state school for the retarded in the country. Rome with 4,500 seems a likely runnerup candidate.

"What's more, the state has no plans for phasing out such vast structures even though Associate Commissioner George L. Wadsworth, who is in charge of the state schools, thinks they are more effective if they serve 500 or fewer." Mr. Wadsworth, incidentally, has resigned effective Sept. 30 to return to the Veterans Administration.

"When the federal government," writes Mr. Beetle, "took its most recently reported tally in 1963, New York State with roughly 9 per cent of the population in the country had nearly 14 per cent of the patients in schools for the retarded. It was spending \$2,023 per patient, which is just about the national average and not especially impressive for a high income, high cost state.

"California, for example, with roughly the same population as New York, has only 11,910 patients in schools for the mentally retarded as against New York's 23,820. The West Coast state is spending more than \$3,300 a year per patient. It hired one employee per 1.9 patients as compared with New York's one for 2.6. With half as many patients, California has almost as many staff physicians.

"The whole trend in this area is to head off long-term institutional care with short-term intensive care. One can wonder whether New York is in step with the times.

"To be sure, Governor Rockefeller has been beefing up the operational budgets of the state schools and he talks also in terms of a vast new construction program."

BETTER CARE — ROCKY (Continued)

In the report of the three investigators of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap, made last year and as revealed by the New York Times, which apparently has obtained a copy of the report conditions at Craig Colony were described as follows:

"There were many emaciated looking, unclothed males lying in bed with their own excrement. The stench was revolting. These patients are spoon-fed in their beds, bathed and shaved twice weekly."

"We were ushered to a sub-basement area, where about 15 ambulatory patients were eating in a dungeon-like dirty atmosphere with a commercial dishwasher belching steam at one end of the room."

They found that in a residence for youngsters under 12 one attendant worked alone on the evening shift and was expected to spoon-feed, bathe, diaper and care for 38 children.

"We were informed," the report states, "that on many occasions because of the lack of time, some of these children go unfed at the evening meal."

STEPS TO STRENGTHEN WILLOWBROOK PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNOR

Governor Rockefeller announced four important steps to further strengthen the State program at Willowbrook State School and to make additional headway in reducing overcrowding at the School and in improving the ratio of staff to patients.

In making public the four new developments, Governor Rockefeller stated: "From the outset of this administration, the importance of strengthening the programs of our state schools for the retarded has been of particular concern. Great progress has been made, particularly at Willowbrook, which serves New York City and Long Island. In the seven years of this administration, there have been three accomplishments:

- 69 per cent increase in appropriations for the care of the retarded at Willowbrook from \$7.1 million \$12.1 million this year;

- 47 per cent increase in authorized personnel from 1,594 to 2,345 resulting in an improved ratio of personnel to patients from 1 to 3.01 to 1 to 2.4;

- \$614 increase in the average appropriation per patient;

- Establishment of a pre-admission unit to evaluate and screen new admissions as to suitability to the school."

In the past few months, these improvements have been made at Willowbrook:

- 162 additional attendant positions established to improve staffing for those patients requiring special care;

- salary improvements by upgrading ward personnel one full grade;

- establishing two new 30-bed admission wards with full staff to aid in screening and placement;

- personnel office established and given additional staff to intensify the recruitment program;

- two new physicians authorized to provide for the pediatric and medical needs of the patients.

The following four additional developments at Willowbrook were announced by the Governor:

1. Authorization for the immediate recruitment of education and therapy specialists that will almost triple the number of such highly trained people to work in these program areas. The cost of these new positions on an annual basis is estimated at \$430,000. These new positions will give Willowbrook 36 more occupational therapists, 23 additional recreational therapists, 13 new teachers, and 12 more physical therapists. These positions represent minimal requests by Dr. Jack Hammond, Director of the Willowbrook State School, to improve services for the mentally retarded at Willowbrook, as a means of making better working conditions for all concerned as well as improving rehabilitation of the patients.

In a visit to the state school two weeks before the announcement by the Governor, Senator Harry Kraf, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap received from Dr. Hammond needs for these professional personnel positions. A call to the Department of Mental Hygiene by Sen. Kraf elicited the information from the Department that funds were not available for these positions. Sen. Kraf then called Dr. Norman Hurd, Director of the Budget, who said he would look into it. Dr. Hurd called Sen. Kraf shortly before the Governor's announcement to tell him that these positions will be released and that the funds are available.

In addition, the Department of Mental Hygiene has been requested, to submit by December 1st its recommendations for the use of other existing facilities in the New York area that can be readily adapted for care of the mentally retarded at a reasonable cost. The Department of Mental Hygiene began searching for such facilities to house patients from Willowbrook over a year ago.

"The 1966-67 budget is presently under preparation," said the Governor, "and the capital and personnel needs at Willowbrook will receive every consideration to further strengthen the steps already under way."

GOVERNOR PLEDGES IMMEDIATE BUILDING AID AT WILLOWBROOK

At a meeting with the Board of Visitors of Willowbrook State School for the Mentally Retarded in Staten Island, Governor Rockefeller on Tuesday, November 9th, announced that temporary buildings (pre-fabricated) to relieve overcrowded facilities will be built at Willowbrook State School.

The number, type, size and cost of these buildings has not yet been determined, but they will be in sufficient quantity said the Governor, to relieve the overcrowded conditions in the critical cottages at Willowbrook.

These buildings, said the Governor, will be used only until more permanent structures can be erected, a matter of three or four years.

The pre-fabricated buildings have been unanimously suggested by the Board of Visitors and Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School. They are in wide use as adjunct school buildings throughout the country.

The utilities already in existence at the State School can be used to connect with the new buildings and to make them serviceable.

Dr. Hammond and the Board of Visitors suggested to the Governor that work be started immediately to lay foundations before the freeze sets in. With such foundations laid, the buildings can be erected in a few months.

The Governor also explored with the Board of Visitors the possibility of running buses from some of the city's low-income areas and Newark, from which considerable number of employees come, to Willowbrook. The inconvenience of getting to Willowbrook has accentuated a personnel turnover problem.

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children and a member of the Board of Visitors to Willowbrook State School, said that the Board is extremely gratified by the Governor's quick action to relieve the critical overcrowding that is causing the conditions previously described by Senator Kennedy.

Although the Governor had previously announced that he is asking the Department of Mental Hygiene to come up with a plan by December 1st for alternate facilities to relieve the overcrowding at Willowbrook immediately, he showed great understanding of the problem at the meeting with the Board of Visitors and agreed without hesitation to the suggestion that pre-fabricated buildings should be erected.

Such buildings, said Mr. Weingold, could be put up much quicker and would cost much less for the relief of an immediate critical situation.

AREA CHAPTERS ENTERTAIN NEWARK PATIENTS

Patients at Newark State School have been entertained by area organizations at picnics and on trips.

Ten patients were guests at the annual picnic of the Wayne County Chapter of the State Association held last summer at Lyons Rod and Gun Club. Mrs. Charles Laudenslayer, past president of the Wayne County Chapter, entertained two patients at a picnic and trip to Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester.

Volunteers from Immaculate Heart fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis in Geneva took 12 patients to see the Blessing of Animals at the church last week. The patients remained for the evening and supper.

United Commercial Travelers, Monroe Council 822, entertained a large group of patients at a picnic.

In addition, several members of the Monroe County Chapter visited Newark State School to consult on services.

They were Harry Charles, director of social service, Mrs. Sandy Simon, counselor, and the Misses Beverly Gold and Eileen Ofsowitz, students from the University of Buffalo.

SUFFOLK STATE SCHOOL OPENS

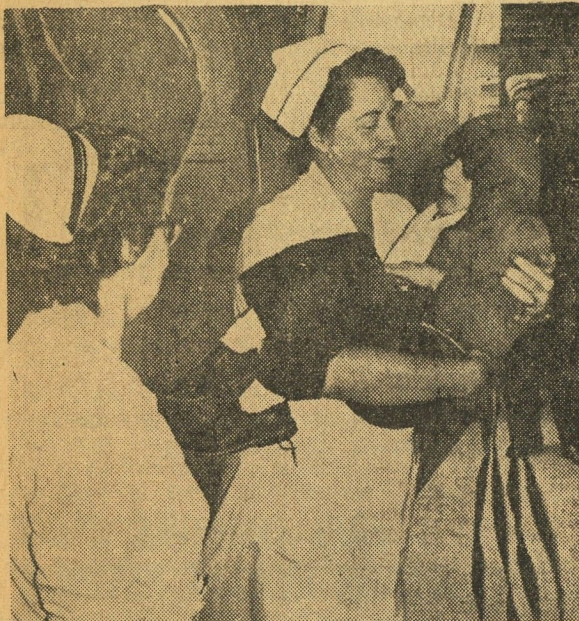
Seven years after plans for its construction were announced Suffolk State School for the mentally retarded has opened its gates. A bus traveling from the Bronx deposited ten boys outside a one-story brick building in the middle of a bulldozer-scarred landscape in Melville, New York.

This marked the opening of Suffolk State School for the mentally retarded and the climax to years of controversy. For some boys, it may mean the first sight of the place where they will grow to old age.

The ten boys are the vanguard of 2800 patients (where, oh where, is the limitation of 1,000 beds?) male and female, and ranging in age from less than a year to more than 70, who will fill the institution to capacity in five years, according to its director, Dr. Edward J. McGuinness.

The institution, which spreads across 475 acres just south of Northern State Parkway, will eventually contain 40 buildings including a four-story hospital. It also will have shops for training in home economics, woodwork and other crafts.

The boys who arrived are among 650 patients awaiting transfer from the Bronx State Hospital. All originally came from Willowbrook State School on Staten Island. Like all patients who will follow them, Dr. McGuinness said, they will be Long Island residents. Patients will be admitted at the rate of 10 a week until January, when a review of the situation will determine whether to speed up or reduce the rate. Direct admission of retarded persons living with their families on Long Island may be possible in a year when more facilities are available, Dr. McGuinness said.



A nurse carries one of the first arrivals into Suffolk State School.

FOOTNOTE

Proper care of the feet actually can improve the job efficiency of the mentally retarded, according to the findings of a two-year study now going on in Washington, D. C.

According to the study, the greater the degree of retardation, the more primitive can be the individual's walking gait, and when it's hard to walk it's hard to work. Podiatric techniques like braces or shoe adjustments have brought about improvements in walking that have led to improvements in working.

Conducting the study are Drs. Joseph Nemiroff, Silver Spring, Md., Joel Lang, Washington, D.C., and Richard Schuster, College Point, New York.

SYRACUSE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER HITS DEFENDERS OF STATE SCHOOLS

State officials who defend conditions at state schools for the mentally retarded are "defending the indefensible", County Mental Health Commissioner of Onondaga County, Abraham L. Halpern said.

Dr. Halpern agreed with Senator Robert F. Kennedy that conditions at Rome and Willowbrook State Schools for the retarded are "intolerable".

Halpern, who expects state criticism for backing Kennedy, criticized state mental health officials for "acting like they were being personally insulted."

These officials instead should be seconding Kennedy's recommendations for improving conditions, Halpern, a psychiatrist, said.

Dr. Charles Greenberg said Kennedy spent only 80 minutes at Rome State School and would have been more understanding if he had stayed longer.

"Had he stayed longer," said Halpern, "he would have been even more critical."

Halpern said that Hammond was even more critical than was Kennedy before he became school director.

Halpern declared that many people are missing the points Kennedy was trying to make at his appearance before the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation and Physical Handicap.

"Kennedy said shortcomings at the schools are not due to one man or one administration," Halpern said, "and he said the remedy lies with all of us."

"Kennedy is bringing to light devastating conditions so things Greenberg, Hammond and Terrence say they want can come about."

Kennedy said present institutions were too large and impersonal and they should be broken up into smaller units. Dormitories should be made smaller.

The state has plans to build seven 1,000-bed schools through the state, including one in Syracuse, to replace the Syracuse State School.

Dr. Julius Cohen, a Syracuse University associate professor in special education, agreed with Kennedy and Halpern that smaller institutions are needed.

"Conditions such as Kennedy describes can occur in large institutions," Cohen said. "New York State unfortunately seems committed to large institutions."

Columbia University graduate Cohen said he worked in a New Jersey institution with 250 severely retarded children" and it was several years before we knew we had each kid programmed as he should be. And that was only 250 children."

Cohen and Halpern said "part of the problem is that mental retardation is regarded as medical. One has to be a physician to direct a school."

Cohen said he has special education to deal with retardation and has been working in this field since the 1940s. Yet he said he couldn't be the director of a school for the mentally retarded.

Halpern said "New York State will continue to be behind times until it opens up school administrative posts to the most highly qualified people instead of restricting it to physicians and psychiatrists."

TRAINING GRANTS FOR TWO STATE SCHOOLS

More than \$200,000 in grants from the National Institute of Mental Health went to nine institutions, including two schools for the mentally retarded, in New York State.

The grants will be used to step up training of hospital and school attendants.

Newark State School received \$15,439 (previously reported), and Rome State School received \$18,637.

COMMISSIONER OUTLINES STEPS TO IMPROVE CARE OF RETARDED

Five major provisions in the State's 1965-66 budget for upgrading the care for mentally retarded persons were outlined recently by Dr. Christopher F. Terrence, acting commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene, in a statement to news media throughout the state.

Remarking that he and Governor Rockefeller have long been aware of the difficulties faced by the State Schools as a result of the overcrowding and understaffing stemming from rapidly increasing population, Dr. Terrence said:

The 1965-66 budget provides for drastic measures to relieve this situation in the state schools.

It includes an increase of \$6 million in appropriations for the operation of the state schools, an increase to provide 1,700 new positions.

In addition to the increase in operational expenses, the state has embarked on a five-year \$500 million construction program for mental hygiene facilities, 40 per cent of which is for construction of new facilities for the retarded.

Two new state schools are open, Sunmount, which the Department took over from the Veterans Administration at Tupper Lake, and Suffolk State School, Melville, New York.

The provisions of the 1965-66 budget for new positions in the state schools provide the following:

1) Creation of an additional 566 positions at a cost of \$1.5 million to provide better medical and personalized care of the severely physically handicapped—mentally retarded children.

Similar measures are being taken to step up the educational, occupation therapy and physical therapy programs in all of the state schools and a number of additional new positions have been approved for this purpose.

2) Additional funds of \$125,000 to employ physicians, medical consultants and specialists to provide better care for patients with physical ailments. A position of full-time staff pediatrician has been established at each state school, and two at Willowbrook.

3) Creation of 602 new positions at a cost of \$2 million to staff new facilities for the retarded.

4) Creation of 250 additional positions at a cost of \$600,000 to meet an increase of 550 children in our state school population.

5) An increase of \$800,000 to upgrade ward nurses and attendants. This will aid in recruitment and retention of competent personnel.

Dr. Terrence's statement makes no mention of any additional funds for development of community services as recommended in the State Planning report.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

There are almost 1,000 (for all handicaps) sheltered workshops in the United States, doubling in the last 15 years.

Almost 56,000 disabled are served daily with annual volume of business of \$150,000,000.

They range in size from under 10 to over 600, with an average of 56 in certificated shops, but over half of all workshops have 40 workers or less at any one time.

The annual volume of business for the workshops ranges from under \$10,000 to over \$1,000,000.

There are more than 200 sheltered workshops for the mentally retarded alone.

New York State is in the top three (with California and Pennsylvania) in terms of numbers of workshops.

About 800 shops employing about 43,000 handicapped workers at any one time, are certified by the U. S. Department of Labor.

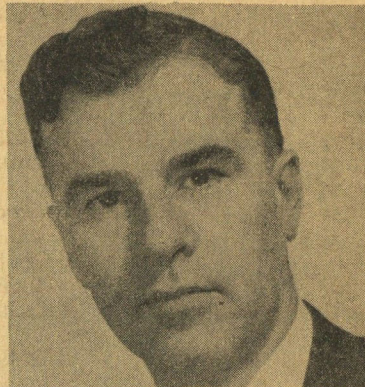
Wage rates range from 5 cents to \$1.25 or more per hour.

There is a National Association of Sheltered Workshops and Homebound Programs.

DR. OLEH M. WOLANSKY TO HEAD NEW STATE SCHOOL

Dr. Oleh M. Wolansky has been named director of the new Sunmount State School for the mentally retarded at Tupper Lake, New York.

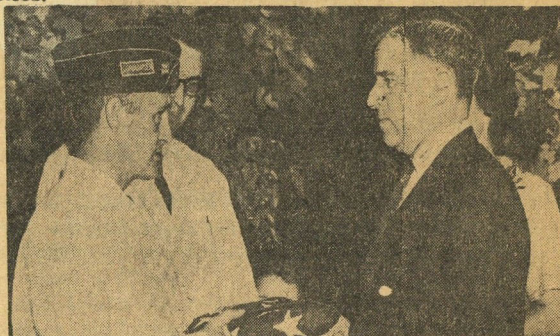
He has been assistant director (clinical) at Letchworth Village since 1961. He first entered state service in May 1950 at St. Lawrence State Hospital, transferring to Utica State Hospital in 1957, where he served as supervising psychiatrist in charge of reception service until his appointment to Letchworth Village.



Dr. Oleh Wolansky

The first 96 patients to be transferred to Sunmount State School at Tupper Lake, New York State's newest school for the mentally retarded, began to arrive on September 20th.

The State Department of Mental Hygiene recently took over the facilities of the Adirondack institution, a former Veterans Administration Hospital, converting it to a state school which will serve a five-county area including St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton Counties.



Edward Thibodeau, commander of Benjamin Churco Post 220, American Legion, Tupper Lake, presents American Flag to Dr. Oleh Wolansky, director of Sunmount.

On September 22nd, Governor Rockefeller visited the school and formally initiated it as a facility for mentally retarded.

In his informal remarks to hospital employees and in a speech at a luncheon of the Tupper Lake Women's Republican Club, Governor Rockefeller said:

"I am delighted to note that 325 of those who worked for the Veterans Administration at Sunmount have elected to stay on as State employees.

"Legislation enacted at my request established 400 positions for the School, with former VA employees having first option to stay on, and to retain their vacation, sick leave, seniority and other benefits consistent with the regulations of the State civil service.

"As a state operation, the school will accommodate 500 mentally retarded children. . .

"At present, 460 patients from these five counties are scheduled to be transferred from other State Schools.

THERAPISTS AVOID SCHOOL: NO CHALLENGE — GREENBERG

There are 4,300 retarded children and adults behind the walls of the Rome State School — but not a single physical therapist.

And, despite the fact that many of these patients suffer from physical as well as mental handicaps, there hasn't been one for a couple of years or more.

There is such a position in the institution's budget, with the salary ranging from \$5,835 to \$7,648. Dr. Charles Greenberg, the school's senior director, has tried to get a physical therapist, part-time, full-time, any time. But the position goes unfilled.

"The big factor is they (the therapists) don't see it as a challenge," Dr. Greenberg said.

But there are wards where small children, but not babies, lie in cribs. Their mobility is impaired by legs that need therapy and help.

Other facts observed by a reporter of the Utica Observer Dispatch are as follows:

In a spotlessly clean day-room, brightly painted and decorated, 47 "trainable" women sat together staring at a puppet show on television.

In a large, bed-filled ward a small child lay in a crib with one hand tied with a cloth to one rail, the other hand tied to the other rail. "To keep him from jumping out," said the nurse.

An empty, dormitory-like room jammed with 118 steel beds, all carefully made and covered with spic-and-span white bedding. They would soon be slept in by 118 youngsters, all boys. The nurse said the room was intended to hold 60 beds.

A locked, upstairs room in a condemned building where 20 or 30 boys who had stolen, or fought with each other or tried to leave were confined. Again, very clean. They finished eating and quietly lined up to clear off their dishes. The nurse said a new program in a new building for this type of boy would be started this fall.

In the same long, crowded and humid ward some 80 sick and elderly patients at one end near 69 beds for severely retarded children at the other. Old and young mixed.

The Rome State School serves 26 central and northern New York counties. Does anyone care, really? Except for parents and the members of the Rome State School Chapter?

Dr. Greenberg said that Annual Mental Health Weeks had never drawn more than 25 people since he had been at Rome. "Some years we get no one coming through," he added.

EX-PATIENTS OF ROME LIVING USEFUL LIVES

In Madison and Oneida Counties, there are approximately 250 people who have won through struggles a goal which most of us take for granted. These people are all ex-patients of Rome State School who are now living or working in communities throughout the two counties.

Some 115 of these persons are under the school's convalescent care program, attempting community life from private homes. Some employed, and others at their own homes. They are now qualified citizens of the community. There are 33 others who are living in private homes in the two counties under the family care program. Approximately 100 other patients in Madison and Oneida Counties are residing temporarily in the three colony homes provided by the school for rehabilitation, preparatory to their return to community life.

Behind each one of these placements are years of hard work and programs. Sometimes there are bitter disappointments, but always there is the endless pushing and probing to obtain the desired results.

RETARDED GIRL STRANGLED BY SAFETY STRAP

WHO'S TO BLAME?

Commenting on death of her daughter, Renee, a severely retarded and physically handicapped patient at Willowbrook State School, Mrs. Ethel Meckler of the Bronx said, "I don't see how this could happen, but I can't jump to any conclusions." Renee was killed, police say, when she was choked by a restraining device used to keep her from falling from a chair.

The grand jury presently is investigating the deaths of a 10-year-old mentally retarded boy in May and a 42-year-old man in February, both residents of the institution.

They were severely scalded while taking showers.

The girl was found by an attendant on the patio of one of the new buildings at the rear of the state school complex.

Authorities said another attendant who was looking after a group of children on the patio, stepped into an adjoining room moments before the girl was found. The child was seated in a wooden lawn chair with the restrainer about her body when last seen by an attendant before her death, police say.

She apparently slipped through the arm of the chair causing the restraining device — something like a seat belt — to work up around her neck.

The blame for this death cannot be fixed, apparently. The fact remains that a child in the custody of the state strangled to death.

KENNEDY (Continued from Page 3)

not a single certified pediatrician on the staff. (This has been remedied in the last few months by the addition of two pediatricians)

"Shocking understaffing at Willowbrook", he said, "with only 7 recreation workers while 52 are needed."

"There are so few attendants," he said, "that it is not much safer for the child in the school than out. Five patients died unnatural deaths at Willowbrook in the last year" he said.

Two of these deaths, he said, "dramatically illustrate the dangers of overcrowding and inadequate staffing. One patient was burned in a shower by another retarded patient. He was in a wheelchair as a result of earlier shower burns."

"Another boy, a low-functioning retardate, was killed by an older, more capable boy — who was put in with the slower boys as punishment."

Mr. Kennedy said he found custodial conditions at Rome far better than at Willowbrook — fewer crowded beds, brighter dayrooms and things to keep most of the adults occupied.

"But" he said, "about 1,300 of Rome's 4,000 patients have IQs over 50 and yet only 35 to 40 are discharged each year. One reason might be that there is no schoolwork for those over the age of 21."

Mr. Kennedy said that he and his staff visited Willowbrook in the morning and afternoon and Rome one morning.

"We observed no on-going programs with any purpose or direction," he said.

Senator Kennedy said that some of the wards at Willowbrook contained twice the number of youngsters they were designed to accommodate.

He said children had to walk over the beds of others to reach their own.

"There is, of course, no room in such a ward for personal possessions — for any shred of individuality — for a toy, or some clothing or a book".

"Our shortcomings are due to no one man or no single administration," Mr. Kennedy said.

"And the responsibility for remedy likewise belongs to all of us."

GENETICS CALLED NEGLECTED AREA

SCIENTIST SAYS DOCTORS LACK KNOWLEDGE FOR COUNSELLING

Most family doctors do not know enough basis genetics to counsel their patients intelligently on the risk of birth defects, a Canadian scientist declared recently.

It is vital that physicians equip themselves with knowledge of the rudiments of how heredity works, the scientist said, for two reasons.

First, estimates are that 6 per cent of newborn infants are defective in some important way, and the incidence of such tragedies is constantly growing. Congenital defects of more than 1,000 recognized types kill or cripple a staggering number of persons yearly.

In California, for example, birth defects ranked second in the causes of infant death in a 1960 survey and remained among the top 10 killers up to the age of 35. A study not long ago in Northern Ireland revealed that one in four hospital beds was occupied by persons suffering from birth defect. It is estimated that some 250,000 children in the current generation are so afflicted.

The second reason that family doctors should bone up on their genetics, the scientist said, was that by applying that knowledge in genetics counseling, they can help their patients avoid the tragedy of bearing defective children. Moreover, the personal physician is the person best suited to provide that sort of guidance in family planning.

The scientist was Dr. Margaret W. Thompson, a specialist in human genetics and assistant professor of pediatrics at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

The audience for Dr. Thompson's remarks consisted of 57 medical educators who were attending a short course in medical genetics that is being given at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the Jackson Laboratory there. The National Foundation sponsored the course.

Dr. Thompson said that most of the physicians she had come in contact with professionally were thoroughly ignorant of the fundamental genetic mechanisms. They must understand these, she said, to estimate the chances that their patients stand of bearing defective children.

For example, she said, it is well known that the risk of bearing a Mongoloid child increases with advancing age of the mother. A woman under the age of 29 stands only one chance in 3,000 of having a Mongoloid child. The risk increases to one in 600 between 30 and 34 years, to one in 280 between 35 and 39, one in 70 between 40 and 44 and one in 40 after that. If a woman has already had a mongoloid child, the chances for having another are roughly three times that for her age group.

Thus a woman in her mid-twenties who has had a Mongoloid baby and was worried over the possibility of having another could be reassured by her physician that the odds were 1,000 to one against it, Dr. Thompson said.

The Canadian scientist said, however, that even the best informed physicians were due for some disappointments in the course of their genetics counseling. She recalled four cases from her own experience.

They all involved women carrier of the muscular dystrophy trait. Two of them were urged to have their daughters undergo a chemical test that would reveal whether they, too, were carriers.

One became angry, saying that a positive result of such a test would "blight" her daughter's life in the community. The other said simply that she and her daughter did not have time for the test. Yet, if the daughters had carried the trait, they could pass it on lethally to any boy infants they bore.

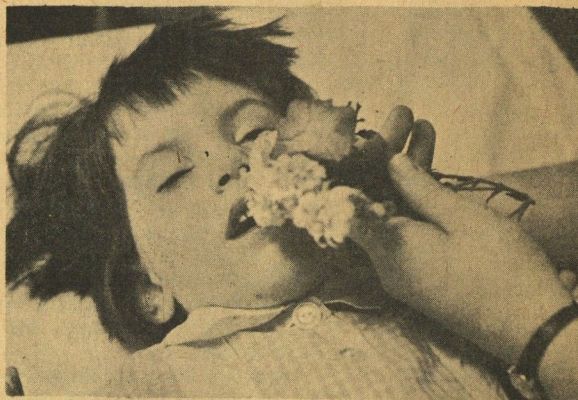
One of the other two women carriers of the dystrophy trait responded to the suggestion that she might want to consider limiting her family by saying that she did not know why she should, since it was not her fault that she carried the deadly gene.

The fourth case, however, was what genetic counselors hoped for, Dr. Thompson said. Informed that the wife carried a dystrophy trait, the couple decided that the children they wanted so badly would be better come by adoption.

RETARDED CHILDREN FEEL THEIR WAY

The apathy and dejection of retarded bedridden patients is due primarily to the fact that they do not receive enough sensory stimulation, according to Dr. Joseph C. Denniston, Director of Oklahoma's Hissom Memorial Center in Sand Springs and Dr. John White.

These two physicians have embarked on a program to change the conditions under which mentally retarded bedridden patients in most state institutions live out their lives in endless isolation — withdrawn, uncommunicative and rejected.



Smelling fragrant flowers helps to arouse withdrawn, bedridden youngster.

Dr. White's staff of 80 nurses and attendants are conducting what he calls a program of SOS—stimulation of the senses. Most of the 150 patients selected for the program are profoundly and severely mentally retarded. About 10% of them are blind.

The SOS plan is based on daily activation of the five senses, with the children treated either individually or in groups. Visual stimulation, for example, includes watching movies, TV, and puppet shows, as well as the physical presence of the nurse or attendant. Hearing stimulation includes listening to records, TV, and tapes of familiar sounds. Dr. White proudly reports that "several of our cerebral palsied who are non-ambulatory can stand erect and do the Twist."

To stimulate the sense of taste, sweet and sour objects are placed on the patients' tongues and they are encouraged to experiment with other taste objects. Touch stimulation gives them a chance to handle such articles as soft cotton, ice bags, warm water bags, crinkly paper, and a variety of wooden and plastic objects. The children fondle them or the attendants touch the youngsters' hands and faces with them.

The response of the patients is "tremendous" according to Dr. White. Contractures are relaxing, and the children are learning to laugh and respond readily. Some, who have been bedridden for months or years, are maneuvering about in wheel chairs, reaching for objects, and showing emotions other than crying.

The Oklahoma center does not expect miracles, Dr. White concedes. "But we will continue to try to develop any function the patients are capable of. Maybe it will only be a smile, a turning of the head, holding a toy, or sitting in a wheel chair. But imagine what a difference it is when none of these abilities was present before."

Reprinted from the March 19, 1965 Medical World News. Photographs by Y. A. Owen, Medical World News.

HOME FOR RETARDED

The Upstate Baptist Home reopened as a home-school for retarded children. All who are interested are invited to write for further details to the Rev. Chester Whitt of Owego Baptist Church, Owego, New York.

NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATION EXTENDS SERVICES FOR THE RETARDED

During the first week in August, President Johnson signed into law two pieces of legislation that are of significance to all who are concerned with programs designed to combat mental retardation. These new laws are P. L. 89-97 "Social Security Amendments of 1965" (Signed July 30, 1965) and P. L. 89-105, "Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act Amendments of 1965" (Signed August 4, 1965).

Following are highlights of the mental retardation component of this legislation:

SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS OF 1965 (P.L. 89-97)

1. Training of Professional Personnel for the Care of Crippled Children.

Of the 4.1 million children born each year about 3 per cent — at birth or later — will be classified as mentally retarded. The 29,000 children in 1964 who were saved by the 94 clinics in the country supported with maternal and child health and crippled children's funds represent only a small fraction of the children who need this kind of help. A large number of these children also have physical handicaps. Waiting lists remain long.

The growth of programs such as these and the construction of new university-affiliated centers for clinical services and training are increasing the demands for adequately trained professional personnel.

P. L. 89-97 authorizes appropriations of \$5 million for fiscal year 1967, \$10 million for fiscal year 1968 and \$17.5 million for each fiscal year thereafter for grants to be used in the training of professional personnel for the care of crippled children.

Grants will be made to institutions of higher learning for training professional personnel such as physicians, psychologists, nurses, dentists and social workers to work with crippled children, particularly mentally retarded children, and those with multiple handicaps.

2. Project Grants for the Health of School and Pre-School Children.

Children of low-income families will benefit from a new comprehensive medical care program provided in Sec. 532 of the Social Security Act. P. L. 89-97 authorized \$15 million for the fiscal year 1966, increasing to \$50 million for fiscal year 1970 to provide up to 75% of the costs of comprehensive projects which must include screening, diagnosis, preventive services, treatment, correction of defects and aftercare, both medical and dental.

These programs will serve children with a wide variety of problems, including mentally retarded children, and will contribute to the development of additional resources especially in major population centers where there is frequently much overcrowding of existing facilities.

These programs are administered by the Children's Bureau, Welfare Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

3. Implementation of Mental Retardation Comprehensive Plans.

Funds total \$2.2 million were made available for two fiscal years, 1964 and 1965, under the "Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Amendments of 1963" (P. L. 88-156).

P. L. 89-97 extends the grant program begun under P. L. 88-156 thus enabling the States to begin implementing their comprehensive plans to combat mental retardation.

Grants, to be matched by the States, under this legislation will provide the necessary staff and expenditures required by the interdepartmental boards. Some States anticipate using a portion of the funds to initiate an ongoing program of public education and interpretation of the plan to the general public, important citizen and voluntary groups and the members of the State Legislature.

MENTAL RETARDATION FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS CONSTRUCTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1965. (P.L. 89-105)

This new legislation amends two existing laws which

(Continued Next Column)

TITLE I FUNDS OF EDUCATION ACT MAY BE USED FOR RETARDED

RE A good deal of question seems to be developing as to whether funds from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-10) provides opportunities for local school districts to strengthen their programs for handicapped children, especially the mentally retarded.

Title I provides grants to school districts for the purpose of expanding and supplying the needs of the educationally-deprived children.

According to the definition provided by the Federal Government, educationally-deprived children are those whose educational achievement is below that normally expected of children their age and grade, including children who are handicapped because of physical, mental and/or emotional impairment.

It seems reasonable, therefore, that these funds can be used by local school districts to strengthen programs for the mentally retarded if they so desire.

According to the NEWS BRIEFS of the New York State Education Department, the funds may be used to employ additional staff, construct facilities, acquire equipment and establish related programs which best meet the needs and requirements of the local school district.

provide funds for training of teachers of handicapped children and research and demonstration projects related to special education. These laws are P. L. 85-926, "Fellowship Programs for Training Teachers of the Mentally Retarded," and P. L. 88-164, "Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963."

The program of training of teachers of the mentally retarded and other handicapped children is extended for an additional three years. The existing law authorized the program through June 30, 1966. The present Amendments extend it through June 30, 1969 with authorization for appropriation of \$19.5 million fiscal 1966; \$29.5 million for 1967; \$34 million for 1968; and \$37.5 million for 1969.

The research and demonstration program is also extended to 1969 with increased authorization for appropriations.

In addition, as part of the research and demonstration authority, the Commissioner of Education is authorized to make a grant to an institution of higher learning for the construction, equipping and operation of a facility for research and demonstration in the field of education of handicapped children.

From 1958 through 1963, the Office of Education administered, under the provisions of P. L. 85-926, a graduate fellowship program in the education of the mentally retarded. In October 1963 this law was amended and vastly expanded by P. L. 88-164 to include not only the area of the mentally retarded, but other handicapped as well.

For fiscal year 1965 approximately \$36 million was requested by 254 institutions of higher learning and 50 education agencies. The total of \$14.5 million was available and awarded.

Approximately 2,500 persons will receive training in the education of the mentally retarded under fiscal 1965 funds. At least 55,000 trained teachers of the mentally retarded are needed.

Research and Demonstration in the Education of Handicapped Children.

In addition to training of teachers, P. L. 88-164 also authorizes a three-year research and demonstration program in the education of handicapped children. In fiscal year 1964, \$1 million was appropriated, the Office of Education received almost \$6 million in requests.

Another feature of law not mentioned by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was for staffing or new mental health centers services, in the community.

Unfortunately there is no provision for staffing of Mental Retardation Facilities which is an oversight of this act. The Association will try very hard through legislation introduced at the next session to remedy this oversight.

SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE RULES INSURANCE LAW MANDATORY

NEW LAW COVERS RETARDED OVER 19

Commencing with October 1, Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Commercial Health Insurance Companies are mandated to continue to cover subscribers' mentally retarded and handicapped children after they reach the age of 19.

Normally the insurance companies drop the responsibility for children under family contracts when they reach 19, and they must take out individual contracts.

In a circular letter dated, September 27, Superintendent Henry Root Stern, told all health insurance companies that they must notify their family group subscribers of the continuing coverage requirement.

The families of children in these categories are to notify their Insurance Companies within 31 days after the mentally retarded or physically handicapped child reaches 19.

Families with adults in these categories may restore coverage if they have family coverage contracts in force as of October 1st by notifying their Insurance Company within 31 days after the company notified them of the new service.

The Insurance Department believes the new rules will cover hospitals "for several thousand" persons whose handicaps are such they are able to stay home with their parents but are incapable of "self-sustaining employment".

In a letter to the State Association, Superintendent Stern, writes:

"You will note that the companies are being advised that Chapter 1026 of the Laws of 1965 has broadened the definition of dependent to provide for mandatory coverage under family and group contracts of dependent mentally retarded and physically handicapped children regardless of age. After October 1, 1965 such coverage will be mandatory for all such children thereafter attaining the age of nineteen and all such children who have previously attained the age of nineteen, whose parents are covered under family and group contracts in force as of Oct. 1, 1965."

Superintendent also wrote, "If any problems arise thereon do not hesitate to call upon me."

A form letter is being drafted by the Insurance Committee of the Association for the use of parents.

FIVE HOURS A DAY ON A BUS

Five hours a day on a school bus—for a trip that takes ten minutes by car—is "excessive", "intolerable", "dangerous" and a menace to his 9-year-old daughter's health, Max Block, Jr., a Queens attorney said.

The child attends special classes for the mentally retarded at a school miles from her home. At the start of the term and until September she was picked up at 7:20 A.M. and dropped off at home at 5 P.M.

The child was returning home from classes in such a state of exhaustion that her mother picked her up the last few days of the month, said Mr. Block.

To reduce this daughter's ride to school to reasonable limits, Mr. Block obtained a Queens Supreme Court order calling on the Board of Education to show cause why it should not alter its "outrageous schedule".

Last year travel time was good, according to Block, but this year, under revised contracts, the Board of Education uses larger buses which are also assigned to pick up and discharge pupils for a Junior High School.

"I suppose it's more efficient to use bigger buses and longer routes," he said, "but it's terribly unfair to the children."

STATE TAKES A LOOK AT PUPIL FAILURES

TESTS MANDATED TO FIND THE REASON AND REMEDY

For youngsters who may not be doing well in school and for the mentally retarded there are some profound implications in the amendment to the State Education Law which becomes effective during the 1965-66 school year.

From now on, if school districts have any pupils in their regular classes who are failing continuously or who are even "under-achievers" they must give them suitable tests to find out "why".

Not only must they spot the physical, mental or social causes of such failure but more, they must determine whether such children would profit from special classes.

The commissioner of education must prescribe rules and regulations for this so that the provisions will have teeth.

The significance of this law and the reason for its passage is that although the law mandates schools to provide special education for the mentally retarded, there is a considerable gap between the mandate and the actual implementation of such classes.

In 1917, the Legislature mandated special classes for mentally retarded having IQs between 50 and 75. After almost 50 years, the Education Department suggest that only about half those eligible are getting such attention. In 1961, special classes for the mentally retarded with IQs under 50 was mandated with similar results.

In answer to Education Department criticism, school districts frequently state that they have no children needing such special education.

One such district near Syracuse claimed for years it had no retarded children. Suddenly when, a new principal took over, it blossomed forth with four special classes of 10 children each almost overnight.

Thanks to the new law sponsored by Senator Earl W. Brydges, the "stalling days" may be numbered.

NEW IMMIGRATION BILL PERMITS ENTRY OF MENTALLY RETARDED

This Association has taken great interest in H.R. 2580, the Amendment to the Immigration Act.

This Office has had numerous contacts with families who have come to us seeking aid in reuniting them with relatives denied entrance to this country under the previous Act because of the mental retardation of those relatives.

It is interesting to note that among the nations of the world, until the present legislation was passed, only the United States and Canada, two of the most "enlightened" and richest nations, have had such prohibitive legislation.

The bill removes this restriction and permits the entry of the mentally retarded under certain conditions.

The following is an abstract from the report of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate on H.R. 2580:

"In order to conform the provisions of section 212(a) (1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act with modern medical terminology, the term "feebleminded" has been deleted and the words "mentally retarded" inserted in lieu thereof. The bill grants the Attorney General authority to admit any alien who is the spouse, unmarried son or daughter, minor adopted child, or parent of a citizen or a lawful resident alien and who is mentally retarded under the same standards as are presently authorized to admit close relatives afflicted with tuberculosis. Under the House language, the authority would have extended only to a child under 14 with the further condition that the child would not be eligible if both his parents, if living, were in the United States. This same authority is granted the Attorney General in the case of any alien who is subject to exclusion because of past history of mental illness and whom the Surgeon General has found to be free of such mental illness for a period of time sufficient in the light of such history to demonstrate recovery."

RESOLUTIONS ATTACK PROGRAM DEFICIENCIES

In a series of resolutions unanimously adopted by the delegates to the State Convention in Saratoga Springs, the Association attacked the deficiencies in programming for the mentally retarded.

Among the steps urged was state support for the on-going operation of sheltered workshops offering long term employment in addition to rehabilitation services.

Resolutions also attacked the inadequacy of the procedures of the Department of Mental Hygiene in investigating cases of alleged brutality in a state schools. The resolution urged the investigation should include the Board of Visitors, representatives of the Association, parents or legal guardian of the alleged victim, and confrontation between the accuser and the accused.

Acknowledging the inadequacy of the Community Mental Health Services Act serving the mentally retarded throughout the State, the Convention urged that all Community Mental Health Boards give high priority and expeditious considerations to all applications by Chapters of the Association for contracts for services to the mentally retarded.

Some of the resolutions adopted follow:

RESOLVED: The Superintendent of Insurance of the State of New York is hereby commended for his promptness in implementing Chapter 1026 of the Laws of 1965 relating to mandatory coverage of the mentally retarded and physically handicapped children under "Family Contracts" and "Group Contracts" issued by non-profit medical and dental indemnity and hospital service corporations and all authorized accident and health insurers.

RESOLVED: This Association notes and commends the Governor for his expressed interest in the welfare of our retarded children and urges that every step be taken now to remedy the deplorable conditions which exists in all State Schools.

RESOLVED: This Association urges the State Department of Education, in order that all New York State teachers have a better understanding of the needs of retarded children, to require that all students in teacher training colleges have at least one course in the field of exceptional children with emphasis upon mental retardation, and that such a course be offered in the early days of each student's preparations.

RESOLVED: That proper State Departments and agencies dealing with public health nurses be urged to include educational and in-service training programs for public health nurses in the field of home training and management of the retarded child.

RESOLVED: That this Association urge a speed-up in the activation of the program to establish "half-way" houses by the Department of Mental Hygiene to provide facilities for the social supervision of retarded adults to speed their return to the community and to prevent institutionalization of adults who can remain in the community with social supervision.

RESOLVED: That the Association urge the State to support financially the on-going operation of sheltered workshops; offering long-term employment in addition to the rehabilitation services.

RESOLVED: That the Association views with concern the rising rate of reimbursement in State Schools for the mentally retarded and that the parents of the mentally retarded are not receiving equal treatment with the parents of physically handicapped; that such fees represent double taxation and should be eliminated or modified.

WHEREAS: The Association views with concern the inadequacies of the procedures of the Department of Mental Hygiene Investigations in cases of alleged brutalities in State Schools.

BE IT RESOLVED: That such investigations should include the Board of Visitors, representatives of this Association, the parent or legal guardians of the alleged victim and confrontation between the accuser and the accused.

WHEREAS, the new formula for disbursing State Aid to public schools in accordance with the Diefendorf Committee recommendation has been enacted into law, and

WHEREAS, under this law, special funds for maintenance of classes for the handicapped are no longer provided.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the New York State Association for Retarded Children, Inc., urge that the State Legislature at its next session, amend this provision of law to provide for the excess cost of such classes either by weighting or some other means.

RESOLVED: The Association views with great concern the practice of the Department of Mental Hygiene in placing mentally ill and the mentally retarded in the same residential facilities, even though in separate buildings. This practice tends to confuse the public and may inhibit the creation of suitable services for rehabilitation of the mentally retarded.

RESOLVED: This Convention urges that all Community Mental Health Boards within the state counties and municipalities give high priority and expeditious consideration to all applications by the Chapters for contracts for services to the mentally retarded in the state; that the Convention views with alarm the situation in The City of New York wherein over half of the consumers of such services within the State reside and the area in which the highest priority for services to the mentally retarded exists and wherein the local Community Mental Health Board has failed to act and urges that such Board act speedily to grant such a contract to the New York City Chapter of our Association.

1966 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The following is the Legislative Program adopted by the Convention of delegates from all Chapters in October 1965.

I. EDUCATION

A. Mandating School Districts To Accept Contracts From Other School Districts For Education of the Mentally Retarded.

Although the Education Law provides that a school district if it does not set up its own classes for mentally retarded children, must contract with another school district, etc., there is nothing in the law which requires the second school district which may have a class to accept the children from the school district required to contract. This creates situations where a mentally retarded child may fall between the two school districts and not receive any education.

B. State Aid For Special Classes For The Mentally Retarded And Physically Handicapped.

The Committee also recommend that the Joint Legislative Committee give immediate and even priority attention to the effects of the so-called Diefendorf Law with regard to reimbursement on the development of classes for the mentally retarded. Reports indicate that the development of such classes has considerably slackened off in the past two years. Furthermore, it is the opinion of many persons familiar with this situation that such slackening off is a result of the change in the reimbursement formula which eliminates special state aid for the classes for the handicapped. It is urged, therefore, that some legislation be introduced to provide for this special reimbursement either in a direct form or in the form of weighting the pupils in such classes in a manner to provide for the excess cost of their education.

II. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

A. To require D. V. R. to reimburse agencies operating sheltered workshops on a daily attendance basis for workers who are not able to work in industry.

As we deal with more severely handicapped individuals, more remain as permanent employees of workshops. Without State aid, this becomes a great financial burden to voluntary agencies. The proposal is to help such agencies meet this cost through state aid. This would be a less expensive alternative to institutionalization.

III. MENTAL HYGIENE

A. Liability For Fees In State Schools

1. Eliminate liability of all relatives for reimbursement for patients in the state schools for the mentally retarded.

2. Failing this, to limit liability of relatives to the first aggregate 5 years or until the patient reaches 21, if less. This bill was vetoed in 1965.

The total paid by relatives of patients in the state schools is \$2,000,000 of \$40,000,000 received by the state. Against this must be weighed the inequity that permits residential care free for other kinds of handicapped, as the deaf and the blind.

B. Eliminate the power of the Commissioner to charge more than the maximum reimbursement rate.

C. Eliminate criminal liability of relatives for failure to pay reimbursement fees.

D. Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Fund

To eliminate this method of financing building, if it continues to be tied in with patient fees.

E. Eliminate requirement that the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene be a psychologist.

IV. STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

A. Mandating Education in State Schools for the Mentally Retarded.

Mandate education for children in the state schools for the mentally retarded from the ages of 5 to 21 as in the community and under the same provisions as under the Education Law but under the supervision of the Department of Mental Hygiene. Although the Mental Hygiene Law amended four years ago making it a duty of the Department of Mental Hygiene to provide training and education, as well as care and treatment, this still does not preserve to the mentally retarded their right to free public education when they are institutionalized. Children who might receive such education if they had remained in the community might well (and some are) deprived of this when they are placed in state schools.

B. Board Of Visitors

1. Parents On Boards of Visitors.

That one member of every Board of Visitors of State Schools for the mentally retarded be the parent of a retarded child, not necessarily in that school.

2. Enlarging Powers of Boards of Visitors

To enlarge the powers of Boards of Visitors to make them equal to those in the Department of Social Welfare, permitting investigation of charges against any employee (now limited to charges against the director).

C. Payment in Private Institutions; Waiting Lists

To eliminate age limit of 5 years in the law which permits the Department of Mental Hygiene to pay for private residential placement of children on waiting lists for state schools.

D. Directors of State Schools

That the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene should be permitted to choose a director of a state school who is a psychologist, educator, social worker, or physician. The present law is that a physician only is eligible. This makes more sense now that the law has been amended at the request of the Department of Mental Hygiene to eliminate the requirement that assistant commissioners of Mental Hygiene must be physicians.

V. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

A. Separate Mental Retardation Services Act.

To make this work, funds for mental health services would be made dependent on funds being provided for mental retardation.

B. Amendment to Community Mental Health Services Act

If A cannot be enacted then the Community Mental Health Services Act be amended as follows:

1. To mandate Day Training Centers for the mentally retarded.

2. Provide for the right of non-profit agencies refused such contracts by Mental Health Boards to appeal to the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene who shall have the right to overrule the local Board.

3. To change the composition of local mental health boards to include representatives of the "consumers of the services" (parents of the mentally retarded or their designees); to provide for rotation of Board members.

4. To provide for 75 per cent State matching for services for the mentally retarded.

5. Eliminate fees for services provided by mental health boards.

(Continued on Next Page)

SEEN AT THE STATE CONVENTION

13



Bernie Fineson congratulating Ruth Gross after presenting her with an award.



Jerry Weingold presenting award to Deborah Cherey, Putnam County.

LEGISLATION (Continued)

VI. EMANCIPATION OF MENTAL RETARDATION

A. To establish an office of mental retardation in the executive department of the state until an amendment to the constitution to permit a department can be passed.

VII. SOCIAL WELFARE

A. To eliminate the means test and responsibility of relatives for aid to the totally disabled.

VIII. SOCIAL WELFARE

A. Mental Retardation Planning Board.

In order to implement the State Plan, there must be an implementing body, with powers. The present plan to have the Interdepartmental Health and Hospital Council to do the job will not result in real action. The Council has no powers to implement anything.

We suggest a separate Board, approved by the Governor, and with community representation with powers and budget to carry out the plans.

B. Establishment of Regional Centers.

The State Plan recommends 30 Regional Centers. No indication is given how these complexes of services are to be set up, financed or operated.

We propose that this year 10 such centers for mental retardation be set up by agencies under contract with the Office of Mental Retardation, or the Department of Mental Retardation, when established. Appropriation of \$2,500,000 as a first step for operation of the centers.

IX. CONSTITUTION

A. Change to permit a Department of Mental Retardation

The Constitution now limits the state to 20 departments, all established. The amendment will permit more than 20 departments.

B. Aid by State for Mental Health and Mental Retardation (Article VII Section 8)

A bill to amend the constitution in this respect was passed last year. It must be passed again by this legislature.

We Oppose

The change of name from State Schools to Schools and Hospitals.

X. APPROPRIATIONS

A. Vocational Rehabilitation

Appropriation of \$1,500,000 to implement the law permitting aid for "staffing sheltered workshops for the severely handicapped." The present appropriation of \$300,000 is completely inadequate.

B. Mental Hygiene

1. Daily care. Raising the daily care expenditure from \$6.50 per day to at least \$10.00.

2. Personnel.

a. At least 2,000 new positions at the attendants level.

b. Trebling the number of professional personnel (non-medical).

c. Raising salaries sufficiently to attract and hold personnel.



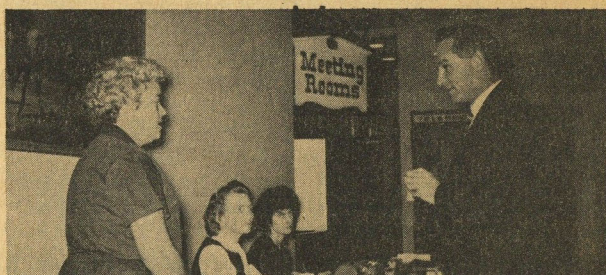
George Hirsch checking on the quality of Jim Reville's suit.



We treat him well, says Ruth Gross, pointing to Jerry Weingold's bulge. Stanley Davies and Phil Wexler, Dept. of Mental Hygiene seem to approve.



Dr. Alan Miller, Assoc. Comm. of Mental Hygiene talks about construction. L.-R. Jerry Weingold, Dr. Miller, Ruth Gross and Sol Richman, DVR.



Nan Walsh at the registration desk with Walt Schofield, Schenectady. Seated, Mrs. Wm. Eddy and Diane McCormack.



And so Farewell.

COUNTIES TAKE NEW INTEREST — DAY TRAINING CENTERS GROW

Three new contracts for Day Training Centers have recently been put into effect and three prior commitments strengthened in recent months.

Since the last report on these projects in O.C.V. new contracts have been approved and put into action in Rockland, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties.

Chautauqua and Cattaraugus are continuing to operate the same basic programs as before their contracts only now under professional supervision. The Cattaraugus contract is one of four in the State where the County Board of Supervisors has agreed to pay a portion of the cost of the Center, 25 per cent in this case.

Rockland County has expanded into a new program for post-school age retardates. Under the direction of Mrs. Louis Dolan, who has many years experience in working with adults in therapy programs in connection with Rockland State Hospital, the program is booming and should draw much community support. We must editorialize and express our regrets that the Chapter was encouraged not to apply for County Funds for this program as Rockland County is contemplating the building of a large mental health complex and it was feared that asking \$7,000 for the retarded would upset asking for a half a million dollars for our "equal" partners, the mentally ill.

Great pleasure is taken in the three other areas of the State where fair and broad-minded Community Mental Health Boards and Supervisors have made additional funds available to our Chapters. Sullivan Co. Chapter, second in the State to obtain approval for 25 per cent County support, finally got their program started with a summer recreation project under the direction of Mr. Martin Van Fleet. Subsequently, Mr. Irving Salkin was hired as the Executive Director and has already started an excellent program for pre-schoolers and is beginning a group for the post-schoolers soon. He has obtained School Board transportation for the younger group — all Chapters take note! !

Our final two pieces of good news come from widely separated areas, Putnam and Niagara Counties. In the former, Mrs. Deborah Cherey once again came forward on behalf of the mentally retarded and obtained 25 per cent support of the Children's Clinic from the County Board of Supervisors. Niagara Co. Chapter found new friends in Dr. Houck and Mr. Hustleby who were instrumental in helping the Chapter obtain an across-the-Board contract, not simply piecemeal type of support, as before.

To all the wonderful people who served on these Boards and help us, we offer our thanks. We hope these successes will serve as inspiration to others.

GROUPS MERGE IN ORANGE COUNTY

A merger of two Orange County groups devoted to helping handicapped children was jointly announced recently by the Executive Director of the Association for Retarded Children, Orange County Chapter, Donald Frost, and Jim Pappas, President of Parents Association for Teaching the Handicapped, (PATH).

The merger eliminates duplication and allows for expanded services that will help all mentally handicapped children in Orange County. The merger of the two organizations will provide a day training center with services.

This merger brings all the services for the retarded under the banner of the Orange County Chapter of the Association.

Frank Kovalsky, President of the Association, at a meeting of the Board of Directors hailed the merger by saying, "We're all very happy about this. ARC's plans for the opening of such a day center have finally been fulfilled."

ACTIVITY CENTER FOR OVERAGE RETARDED PROJECTED BY OSWEGO COUNTY CHAPTER

The fact that five school pupils may have problems wouldn't ordinarily upset school administrators who are charged with the responsibility of educating more than 5,000 in an Enlarged City School District.

These five, however, are average retarded pupils attending classes at the Alice E. Mackin School.

Had it not been for the action of local district officials and representatives of the Oswego County Chapter of the Association, these five would have been deposited in a social situation none was equipped to handle.

According to Fred J. Prior, assistant superintendent, four of the pupils are over age twenty-one and the fifth has just reached this age.

In a letter to school board members, Mr. Prior said the State Education Department has directed that pupils twenty-one years of age or over cannot attend the public schools of the State of New York.

Age twenty-one is designated as the "terminal age for schooling", he said.

Several years ago a group of interested citizens who later became the Oswego County Chapter of the Association organized and planned a school for trainable retarded children. They obtained the use of a building at Fort Ontario, renamed as the Alice E. Mackin School, for trainable pupils.

In 1962, the district officials said, schools for trainable pupils came under the jurisdiction of local public school districts by action of the state Legislature.

With the help of the same group, the Oswego County Chapter, a solution now has been found for the problem of providing a suitable program for the severely mentally retarded young adults.

According to Nunzio Spiridigliozzi, president of the Chapter, an activity center will be established for the five students and will be housed in a section of the Mackin School building, independent of that portion used by younger school pupils.

The instructor will be provided by the local ARC chapter while details of their instructional program is slated to be planned by the chapter with whatever assistance the local school system administration may provide.

It is hoped that when a Mental Health Board becomes active in Oswego County, it will enter into a contract for this activity which should be part of their program.

COURSE FOR OTHER AGENCIES

The New York City Chapter of the Association is once more providing an In-Service Training Seminar to staff members of cooperating agencies, public and private child care and casework agencies, hospitals, clinics, graduate students in schools of social work and other interested professionals from social work, psychology, education and other related disciplines.

The title of the seminar is "Basic Issues and Problems in Mental Retardation."

The seminar sessions can be attended on an individual basis.

Subjects that will be discussed in 9 weekly sessions will be, "Mental Retardation: Past, Present and Future"; "Medical Aspects of Retardation"; "Some Basic Issues in Education of the Retarded"; "Social Work with the Retardate and his Family"; "Vocational Programs for the Retarded"; "Verbal Communication for the Mentally Retarded"; "Medical Research in Mental Retardation"; "Child Welfare Services for the Mentally Retarded"; "Retardation and the Law"; and "The Institution and the Retardate".

JAYCEES TACKLE GIANT PROJECT

A \$100,000 day training center which Middletown's Jaycees propose to build to help some of Orange County's 3,000 mentally retarded is the biggest project the group has ever tackled.

The center will not be able to help all of the retarded, but will help some of them.

There are 40 children in Middletown right now who definitely will need help, according to Thomas R. Barone, project director. The building the Jaycees hope to construct would accommodate perhaps 80 who need such help.

Right now Orange County's Chapter of the Association runs classes at 19 Cantrell Street for 12 retarded children who have been rejected by the public school system.

To prepare children for the public schools, the ARC set up classes in Middletown and Newburgh, but the building the organization rents for the Middletown classes is inadequate and will be torn down within the year.

The Jaycees plan to give the classes a new and more adequate home. In it the ARC Program would be expanded to train pre—as well as post—schoolers.

To build the day training center the Jaycees may only have to raise \$33,000—one-third of the projected total cost.

The other two-thirds could be paid by the federal and state governments as part of a program to bring treatment for the mentally retarded back to local communities.

Donald L. Frost, executive director of the Association's Chapter, said that the groups program has already been submitted to the Community Mental Health Board which must approve it before funds can be made available.

The 114 Jaycees plan to raise their share of the center's cost through entertainment, dinners and canvasses for donations. Barone did not seem worried about getting the money.

ART OF THE RETARDED AT WORLD'S FAIR

"Art of the Retarded," an exhibit consisting of a collection of art works created by mentally retarded individuals throughout the world, was held at the New York World's Fair Demonstration Center, Promenade of Industry, from September 21st to October 17, 1965.

The exhibit contained works by patients from almost 100 institutions in France, Italy, England, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Canada, U.S.A., Nicaragua, the Philippines, Japan, India and Australia.

The artist-patients are from five to fifty years of age with IQ's ranging from 20 to 70.

The collection, consisting of works in many media, including oils, water colors, pastels, crayons and finger paints, was compiled by a French psychiatrist, Ionel Rapaport, M.D., Ph.D., while studying non-verbal aspects of intellectual development at the University of Wisconsin. This collection is a demonstration of the non-verbal ability of the mentally retarded.

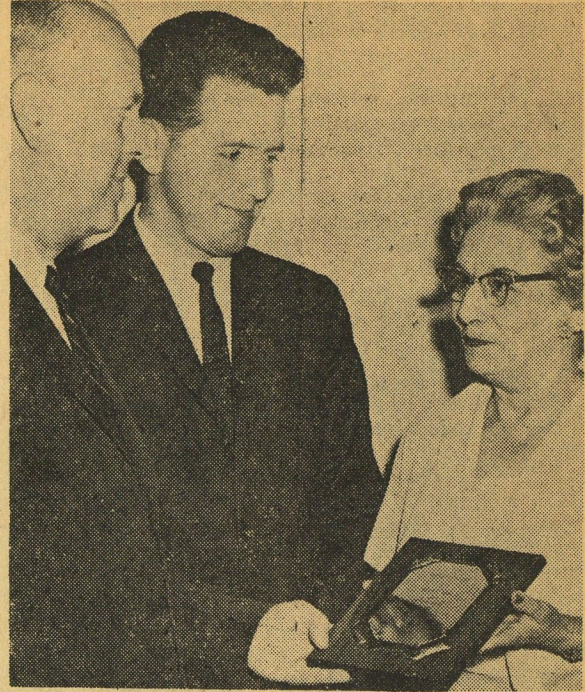
According to Rapaport, research is being done on how persons handicapped by retardation sometime achieve a high order of art expression. He cites the case of Japanese painter, Kiyoshi Yamashita, called the "Van Gogh of Japan", who has an IQ of 68, but paints with great beauty and skill.

This exhibit was sponsored by the New York City Chapter of the State Association.

INSURANCE WOMEN'S CLUBS DONATE

The Federation of New York Insurance Women's Clubs has once more given its help to the Association for Retarded Children by a generous contribution. "We trust that in some small way," wrote Anne Pfifferling, Past President, "our contribution will assist you to further your research and rehabilitation programs."

TEACHER HONORED



Hilda Weirich, teacher of a class for retarded at Starbuck School and director of Jefferson County Day Training Center, receives plaque from Tom Coughlin, President of the Chapter. Robert B. Sinclair, a past president looks on.

FIRST CLASS FOR TRAINABLE RETARDED IN STEUBEN COUNTY

Twelve young children, from 7 to 11 years of age, who otherwise may have been cheated from other opportunity for formal education, now are reaping the benefits at the trainable class which began this past September in Bath, Steuben County. Plans to step-up and expand the program are progressing.

Development of this class, hailed by Mr. Lyle Jones of Painted Post, president of the Chapter, makes the first class established for trainable retarded children; there are several in Steuben for the educable.

The children are transported by school bus from their home districts, five children coming from Corning, two each from Odessa and Watkins areas; two from Addison and one from Avoca. The class was the result of a survey by the Steuben County Chapter which revealed that there were at least 25 children, 2 to 16 years of age, whose needs for such a class were known.

The study was initiated by Mr. Arthur Hansen, vice president and immediate past president of Steuben County Chapter.

The class is operated by BOCES and is located in the First Baptist Church in Bath. Commenting on this development, Mr. James Maroon, Chairman of the Education Committee said, "It is always well to bear in mind that there are still many areas in the State where mentally retarded children are not receiving the education which is their due under the Law. The Steuben County Chapter is to be commended on this forward step that they have taken."

The Chapter is continuing its efforts to develop educational programs for the retarded, seeking more advanced classes on the high school level especially for those in the 15-21 age group.

Another target is for a sheltered workshop for the retarded.

AWARDS — OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES—

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Ten outstanding individuals, eight who work with the mentally retarded directly and two who gave their plight some real thought, were given awards by the State Association at the Saturday evening dinner held at our State Convention October 16th.

The eight were employees of New York State Institutions for the Mentally Retarded who were selected by their fellow workers as the "Outstanding Employee" at each of their respective facilities. Each recipient received a \$50.00 check and an award certificate and had their name placed upon a plaque which will be posted at the institution in which they are employed.

The winners were generally individuals with long backgrounds of State Service and were from many walks of institution life; Supervising attendants, Supervisor of Grounds, Maintenance Supervisor, Supervisor of Tailor Shop among others.



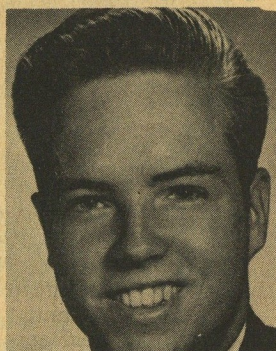
Evelyn Paddleford
Wassaic



Arthur Knight,
Syracuse



Frederick W. Arnold,
Rome



Clifford W. Johnson



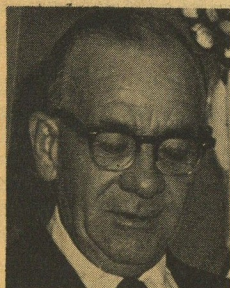
Mary Jo Jordan



Leo Ushold,
Craig Colony



Roy A. Lee,
West Seneca



Richard Keller,
Newark

"The Association looks forward to adding the names of many other outstanding employees in future years", said George Hirsch, Chairman of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, which handled the details of the Awards. Dr. George Etling served as co-ordinator of the Contest with the directors of the State Schools for the Department of Mental Hygiene.

Two other awards were presented, these to the high school seniors of the class of 1965, who produced the outstanding work in our State-wide Essay Contest, "Mental Retardation, A Community Problem — A Community Challenge."

Over 300 essays were received from all corners of the State which were put through a rigorous series of judgments. First, the essays were sent back to the Region of the State from which they came to be judged by a local committee. Each of the individual judges on this level was given a number of essays to review and each picked a winner. These 22 essays were then reviewed by a professional committee consisting of I. Ignacy Goldberg, Professor of Education at Teachers College; Dr. Herbert G. Birch, Research Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; and Professor Chris De Prospe of City College. Those essays selected by these men were then reviewed by our Scholarship and Awards Committee who were unanimous in their selections.

First Prize of \$100.00 went to Clifford W. Johnson of Massapequa, Long Island who attended high school at Seton Hall in Patchogue. Clifford is now studying at Dayton University, Dayton, Ohio. His check and award plaque were accepted by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Johnson.

Able to be present to receive the second place award of \$50.00 plus a plaque, in person, was Mary Jo Jordan of Loudonville, New York. Mary Joe, who was present with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Jordan, and her brother, Mike, is now attending the College of New Rochelle, having completed high school at Maryrose Academy in Albany.

This contest was co-sponsored by the New York State Department of Education with Assistant Commissioner Walter Crewson coordinating our effort with the schools.

The real success of the contests would seem to be reflected by the action of the State Board of Governors who voted to participate in both contests again for the year 1966.

Awards were also made to outgoing President Ruth Gross and Mrs. Deborah C. Cherey, for her long years of service to the Association.

Mr. Hirsch also announced the Joseph T. Weingold Scholarship through which the State Association will provide \$1,000.00 annually for scholarships in special education and vocational rehabilitation. The award was made in honor of Mr. Weingold's completion of 15 years of service with the Association.



Alma E. Hadden,
Letchworth



Clarence Stevens,
Willowbrook

NO RETARDATE CAPABLE OF APPLE PICKING SAY LETCHWORTH AND WASSIC

Requests by this Association, New York & New England Apple Industries, Inc., individual farmers, and the State Department of Labor to Letchworth Village and Wassaic State Schools for labor to help ease the apple-pickers shortage, elicited the information that no such persons are now available.

The request of the apple growers of New York State that the U. S. Department of Labor permit the importation of West Indians to ease the apple-picking crisis, brought forth the suggestion from this Association that able-bodied patients at Letchworth Village and Wassaic, both near the Hudson River Valley, be used for this purpose.

In answer to inquiries from individual farmers, Letchworth Village informed them that even if labor were available, they would not let anyone go more than 8-10 miles away, they want them back at 4:30 in the afternoon and they would not let them climb ladders to pick apples.

A letter from this Association to Hon. M. P. Catherwood, Industrial Commissioner of the State of New York, elicited the reply, "In our efforts to determine availability of workers and recruits from local sources, we contacted both institutions referred to in your letter of September 10.

"In the light of the limitations on the number of individuals in the institutions which could be expected to qualify for difficult work of the type involved in apple picking, the necessity for constant supervision, the need for parental consent, problems of transportation, etc., we do not feel that the prospects of use of the individuals from these institutions is promising.

"Based on the reactions which we observed, we have not pursued the matter further. We are, however, deeply interested in providing employment in all appropriate situations and would be glad to discuss this problem further with you if you still feel that there are potentialities."

In a letter to Sen. Jacob K. Javits, Samuel V. Merrick, Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs of the U. S. Department of Labor, wrote, "The Bureau of Employment Security's New York Regional Office has talked with the supervisors of the Wassaic State School and Letchworth Village. Letchworth Village had no one available for the work, and Dr. Etling at the Wassaic State School doubted that he would have any workers available."

"We are gratified that Mr. Weingold supports our general position that all possible American jobs should be given to Americans. We do appreciate his thoughtfulness in suggesting a possible source of labor and regret that in this situation the employment of the mentally retarded appears not to be feasible."

Mr. Sargent Shriver, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, reacted to the telegram from Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the State Association, by writing to the Regional Administrator, Bureau of Employment Security, New York State Employment Security Office in Albany, bringing the suggestion for the use of patients from Letchworth and Wassaic to his attention and asking him to explore its feasibility. "Obviously," wrote Mr. Shriver, "any endeavor pointed at making mentally retarded persons more self-sufficient is of direct interest to me in the conduct of our 'war on poverty'. I'll appreciate your serious consideration of Mr. Weingold's proposal."

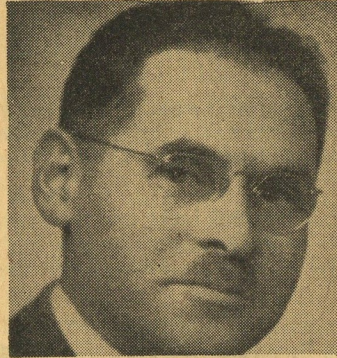
In commenting on this situation, Mr. Weingold, who has pushed the suggestion, said "It is the easiest thing in the world to say no to something which sounds a little difficult. The negative attitudes of Letchworth Village and Wassaic to the use of mentally retarded patients as apple pickers is indicative of a stay-as-we-are philosophy."

"It is interesting to note that a bulletin from the Department of Labor indicates many mid-western states now have programs of training the mentally retarded in farming practices far more difficult than apple-picking, including the operation of farming machinery. In spite of the shortage of labor in this area, New York State has been cutting out its farms and farm training in the state institutions for the mentally retarded."

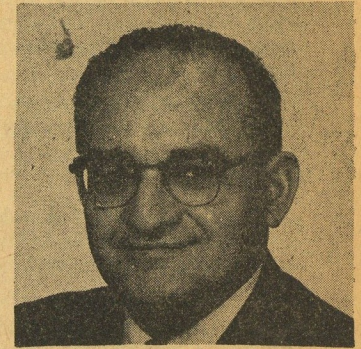
DR. I. WOLFSON RETIRES: 34 YEARS STATE SERVICE

DR. J. SCHNEIDER BECOMES LETCHWORTH VILLAGE DIRECTOR

Dr. Isaac N. Wolfson retired on July 31 after 34 years of state service, the last nine of which were spent as director of Letchworth Village.



Dr. Isaac Wolfson



Dr. Jacob Schneider

Dr. Wolfson graduated in 1922 from Syracuse University College of Medicine and engaged in hospital work and general practice for several years before joining the staff of Hudson River State Hospital in 1931. He became assistant director of Manhattan State Hospital in 1943 and while there he also held appointments on a part-time basis as an associate in clinical psychiatry at the New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospital, and associate consultant in clinical psychiatry at the New York Psychoanalytic Clinic for Training and Research, Columbia University. In 1950 he was appointed director at Newark State School, and, again on a part-time basis, simultaneously was a consultant in psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr. Jacob Schneider has been named director of Letchworth Village at Thiells, N. Y.

Prior to this appointment Dr. Schneider was director of Syracuse State School, a post he assumed in 1962. He entered state service in January 1946 at Willard State Hospital and advanced through the various grades to acting clinical director. He was appointed assistant director at Matteawan State Hospital in 1958, transferred to Letchworth Village in 1959, and in 1960 became assistant director of Marcy State Hospital where he remained until his appointment to Syracuse State School.

A native of Brooklyn, Dr. Schneider holds a bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University where he also received his medical education. After four years of internship and residencies he entered private medical practice in Brooklyn. He served with the U. S. Army Medical Corps from May 1942 to December 1945.

"GEMS" FROM NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER

The following are some of the "gems" as reported by Gil P. Duguay, Executive Director of the Niagara County Chapter.

First, the Chapter is negotiating with the Mental Health Board for a full contract and their chances are excellent. It involves an increase of \$40,120.00 over last year, making a total of about \$70,000.00.

The second budget proposal is that Niagara County assume payment for a Social Worker starting at \$8,000.00. "At a meeting with the Board of Directors of Mental Health on September 9th," writes Gil, "I am encouraged they will consider assuming financial responsibility of County participation in this situation."

And finally, they are able to hire a full time Program Director to develop and strengthen their program.

"There are a few other 'gems' to report but I'll save these for another time," concluded Gil.

PLANNING (Continued from Page 1)

ity mental health boards and departments for local leadership and planning in the further development of voluntary and governmental services for the mentally retarded and of the provisions of the Act for State Aid and discharge of State responsibilities.

— An organized and vigorous joint effort by all appropriate agencies, governmental and voluntary, to translate into widespread action the findings of research and the services of medicine and health, of education and social welfare, and of other agencies in the prevention of mental retardation.

— Federal and State leadership and support in greatly enlarging and strengthening facilities and programs for the recruitment and training of all professional and other personnel.

— Partnership of federal, state and local governments, in cooperation with voluntary agencies, in financing services, construction, training and research in mental retardation.

— Use of the best modern skills and media of communication to conduct an organized campaign of public education as a cooperative undertaking of voluntary and governmental agencies.

— Strengthened coordination and collaboration among State agencies in their services for the retarded by developing the functions of the Interdepartmental Health and Hospital Council for this purpose and providing additional staff for its Committee on Mental Retardation.

The State Association for Retarded Children was the prime proposer of the Regional Centers.

One of the statements in the report, not included in the release, of the Department of Mental Hygiene, was the statement that the principle of tying-in construction under the Mental Hygiene Facilities and Improvement Fund with fees from patients is repugnant to all social thinking and the two should be divorced from each other.

The State Association for Retarded Children also took exception to the weakness of the suggestions for implementation of the plan. In its opinion, the Interdepartmental Health and Hospital Council does not now have the power and will not be given the power to do what is necessary to implement this plan.

The State Association for Retarded Children suggested that under the present power structure, implementation will be difficult if not impossible. Among its major suggestions was a Separate Department of Mental Retardation removed from the State Department of Mental Hygiene; separate Community Mental Retardation Services Act to remove it from the dominance of psychiatry and its emphasis on mental health in the development of community services; the abolition of the Mental Hygiene Facilities and Improvement Fund unless it is divorced entirely from fees received from the patients and their relatives; the provision of a fixed point of referral or an "anchor" for the parents and their children in the community to obtain services necessary from time to time; the elimination of the 1,000-bed concept is repeated over and over again to provide for smaller units as may be needed together with short-term stay homes, foster homes, group day care, etc.

Under recent legislation passed by the Congress the planning may now continue for another two years with studies in depth to be made for the implementation of such plans.

The Association further urges studying depths of the cost of such services, how they are going to be met, and what legislation must be introduced with this session of the legislature to provide some implementation.

Although New York currently is embarking on a massive construction program estimated to cost between \$500 and \$600 million, there is no similar program of anywhere near this amount of money earmarked for community facilities.

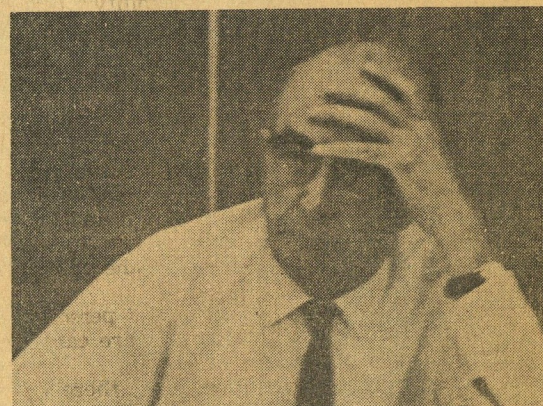
PLANNING IS HOT WORK



Flanked by Dr. Davies, left, and Mr. Hy Forstenzer, Dr. George Wadsworth conducts the meeting.



Dr. Frank R. Henne and Dr. Samuel Feinstein, directors of Newark and West Seneca State Schools are calm in shirtsleeves.



Dr. George A. Jervis, director of Institute for Research, ponders a point.

GRANTS TO STATES FOR TRAINING TEACHERS

Allocation of more than \$3.4 million to the 50 States for training teachers or supervisors of teachers of handicapped children during the academic year 1965-1966 beginning in September was announced by Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Anthony J. Celebrezze.

The teachers and supervisors will work with children who are mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, visually handicapped, emotionally disturbed, crippled, speech-impaired, or suffering from other serious health difficulties. New York State has received \$110,000 for this program.

Congress authorized the program in 1963 amending Public Law 85-926, which supports the education of handicapped children through grants and fellowships for the training of teachers and supervisors.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1965 PASSED

Differences between the Senate version of H.R.8310, and the House bill have finally been ironed out in a conference between the Senate and the House. The bill was passed on October 21st with most of the major portions of the House bill retained. It has been signed by President Johnson (P.L.89-333).

The formula for allotments to the States and for construction of workshops and residential facilities in connection with such workshops, remains on the basis of the so-called "Hill-Burton" formula. Under this, the State of New York will receive, as for Mental Retardation Facilities, approximately 37% federal aid.

The Senate bill went into conference with a minority statement signed by Senators Javits of New York and Murphy of California embodying the position of this Association with regard to these bills. Special emphasis was given to need for modifying the allotments to the States to bring them more into line with the realistic needs of the so-called "large income" States such as New York and California.

The conference failed, however, to modify this, but did retain the major features of the House bill which changes the matching formula to 75% federal for fiscal 1967 (62½% for fiscal 1966).

With regard to expansion and improvement grants, now termed "Innovation", federal share will be extended to 5 years and will be 90% for the first three years and 75% for the last two years.

A workshop and rehabilitation facility training features, effective in fiscal 1967, will also have a 90% Federal reimbursement.

One of the most important features of the bill is the provision that evaluation for the mentally retarded may extend up to 18 months to determine the potential of this group of handicapped. This should mean that there no longer be any initial question of "feasibility" because of low IQs, etc.

CONVENTION — NEW AGENCY

(Continued from Page 1)

The Association's legislative program also called for abolishing the fees now paid by the families of the mentally retarded in state institutions. These fees, based on income, range to a maximum of \$210 a month and more. Mr. Weingold said a family with an annual income of \$5,000 was generally charged \$35 to \$50 a month for the care of a retarded patient.

He pointed out that other handicapped persons — the blind, the deaf, and tubercular patients — are cared for by the state at no cost to their families.

At the very least, Mr. Weingold said, there ought to be a cutoff at age 21, when parents normally stop paying for the support of their children.

The Association also demanded a law requiring that retarded youngsters in institutions receive educations comparable to those which they would if they were living at home.

Dr. Hammond said hundreds of children at Willowbrook were capable of learning, but were not realizing their potentials for lack of teachers. If they were in a community, such education would be mandated for them.

During the convention, the delegates inspected the facilities of Mount McGregor in nearby Wilton, a division of Rome State School. They agreed that Mount McGregor, a former Veterans Administration rest home that was taken over by the Mental Hygiene Department five years ago, was a model institution.

With 345 patients, Mount McGregor is the only such institution in the state that is not overcrowded. Some of the less severely retarded even have their own rooms, a fact that impressed Willowbrook parents, whose children must walk over other beds to reach their own.

The convention selected Jamestown, New York as the site for the 1966 Convention.

THREE-YEAR CAMPAIGN FOR EMPLOYMENT OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED

The National Association for Retarded Children has approved sponsorship of a Three-Year Campaign to Promote the Employment of Mentally Retarded Persons. The purpose of this campaign is to mobilize the interest and participation of many agencies, public and private, behind efforts to identify job opportunities, to plan for realistic pre-vocational education, to organize work-study and in-service training, and to demonstrate to employers that the hiring of suitably prepared retarded person in appropriate jobs is good business.

The following steps have been taken by NARC's staff to launch an effective campaign.

1. A booklet showing mentally retarded persons at work has been developed.

2. A motion picture, "One Guy Named Larry", to promote the employment of mentally retarded persons has been prepared and is now ready.

3. The W. T. Grant Company's new personnel policy on hiring handicapped persons has been publicized.

4. NARC volunteers and staff worked closely with the U.S. Civil Service Commission to foster employment for mentally retarded persons.

5. NARC has negotiated with the U. S. Employment Service Staff, in eliminating the U.S.E.S. test as a screening device applicable to mentally retarded persons seeking training in employment through several Labor Department programs.

6. NARC negotiations with the Labor Department resulted in Federal funds through the Office of Manpower, Automation and Training, to promote on-the-job training for mentally retarded persons.

NARC suggests to State and Local A.R.C.'s the following action:

1. Continue to work with the Governor's Committees for employment of the handicapped.

2. Establish an effective and continuing liaison program with state education and local public school departments in promoting a secondary school-work program.

3. Establish a working relationship with State Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation and encourage local Chapters to seek the help of D.V.R. in providing on-the-job training of mentally retarded persons.

4. Assist sheltered workshops and local Chapters in securing maximum help under new legislation for developing, improving and expanding new concepts of protective work opportunities.

5. Assist local training centers, State DVR's, etc. in recruiting trainees to participate in the Labor Department contract with the Institute of Industrial Launderers, for on-the-job training of mentally retarded persons.

6. Continue to work and enlist to help all available resources in securing favorable policies by key State Governmental agencies for employing the mentally retarded.

7. Encourage State Employment Services to give more attention to job placement of qualified mentally retarded persons.

8. Assist sheltered workshops in securing government subcontract work from the Department of Defense and from the General Services Administration.

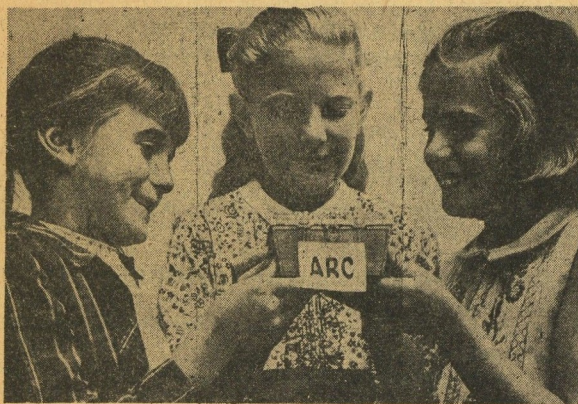
9. Inform Mr. George Clark, the NARC Consultant on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, of developments in placement and work successes or failures that can be shared with other units throughout the Nation.

Commenting on this program, an authority on Vocational Rehabilitation of the State of New York said, "This program is good as far as it goes, but does not take into consideration one of the potentially largest employer of the mentally retarded and severely handicapped, the sheltered workshop. More attention should be given to the development of the sheltered workshops and preferential treatment by government in terms of contract awards and purchasing of certain materials."

Chapter News

News from the Chapters, both directly and through newspaper clippings, is becoming so voluminous that we may have to devote a whole issue to it . . . **ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER** is sponsoring a new Boy Scout Troop, No. 22 . . . first meeting held September 16 in New City . . . Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, San Juan-Romagne Post No. 3050 Spring Valley presented the National Colors to the Troop in opening ceremony . . . **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CHAPTER** announces Community Mental Health Board contract OK . . . received and deposited \$6,000 to complete the year to January 1st . . . summer recreation programs, they say, went over very good . . . one in Jamestown and another in Dunkirk . . . swimming, bowling and skating (roller) programs started . . . 35 camper weeks paid for at Camp Cornplanter . . . working

TREASURE CHEST

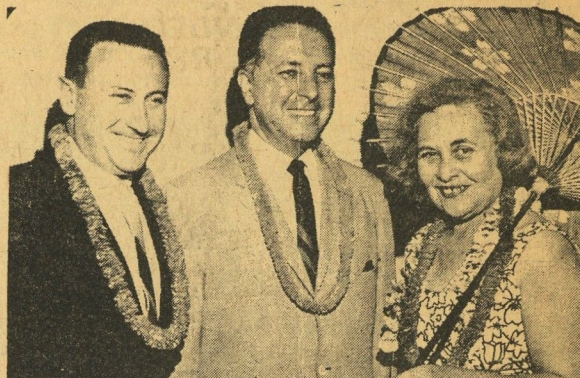


Amy Goodman, Sharon Friedrich, and Joan Flamman, left to right, all of East Islip (Suffolk County) count the money. The trio conceived, produced and acted in a play to raise money for the Chapter. Attendance 56; receipts \$8.50.

hard on a fund drive and shaping up well . . . Our **WAYNE COUNTY CHAPTER** sponsored a fashion show last summer at the VFW Home in Palmyra . . . also raised funds at a booth at the Palmyra Fair selling toothbrushes at 50 per cent profit . . . A survey is being conducted by the Chapter to find out services needed in Wayne County . . . Welcome Wagon Club supports the Chapter . . . \$100 contribution . . . The Port Chester Lion's Club entertained 40 children from the AHRC Workshop and Training Center in White Plains . . . **WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHAPTER** Pelham Post No. 50 American Legion attended Pelham Civic Association Memorial Day ceremony at the AHRC SCHOOL in Pelham Manor . . . the Chapter is getting ready to implement the demonstration project for a regional vocational rehabilitation center and residence in White Plains . . . **SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAPTER** deepens its Day Training Center program with Mental Health Board funds . . . also receiving 25 per cent from the County . . . Successfully completed first summer recreation program at the Rehabilitation Center . . . Huge success . . . about 100 Sunday diners enjoyed the Third Annual Barbecue Dinner at the Harry M. Bliss home, Ballston Spa, for the benefit of the **SARATOGA COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . Many of the neighbors chipped in with gifts of food and money to add to the success . . . Bill Patten was one of the hosts . . . or is it cook? . . . **CHENANGO COUNTY CHAPTER** sponsored a two-week Day Camp program for trainable children . . . held in Oxford from July 26 to August 6 . . . Nine youngsters participated . . . Funds for the project raised by the sale of Holland bulbs . . . (feel better now, John?) . . . **ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY** has opened a Massena Unit . . . also a Canton Unit . . . 14 children, participated in the program . . . financed

by the Unitarian Universalist Church and the St. Lawrence County Chapter . . . Hudson Jayncees sponsored a Round and Square Dance in September for the **COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . Jayncees active all over the State . . . helping retarded children . . . Jayncees in Saugerties put on performance of "Nutcracker" at Saugerties High School . . . by the **DUTCHESS COUNTY Ballet Company** . . . proceeds of the performance used to sponsor a Christmas Party for the retarded . . . Gala

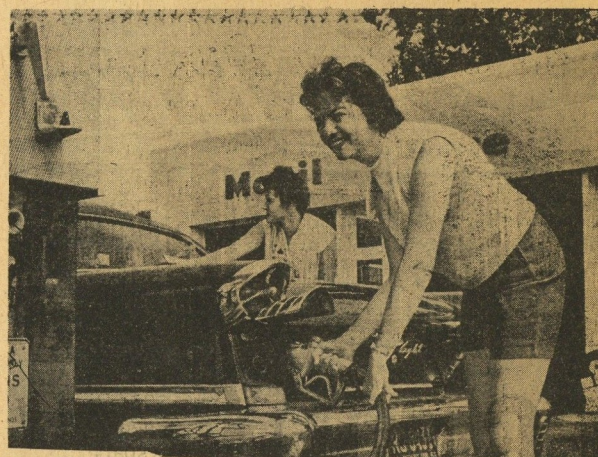
HAWAIIAN FOLLIES?



L.R. — Assemblyman Abe Seidlin, Nassau, Ralph Caso, Supervisor of Hempstead and Helen Kaplan, Exec. Dir. Nassau Chapter at the Brookville headquarters — all looking south-sealish.

modern art show by Great Neck Auxiliary, **NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER** . . . Utica Jayncees are to be commended, writes our **ONEIDA-HERKIMER COUNTIES CHAPTER** publicity chairman Mrs. Gilette, for the fine

A WOMAN'S TOUCH



Something special in car service. Mrs. John Hein pumps gasoline while Mrs. Stephen Kane cleans rear window at gas station in Suffolk County. Gas sales receipts went to Mid Island Auxiliary of the Chapter.

entertainment they have sponsored for our children over a short period of time. They have given several parties and a picnic and also arranged for a choral group from a local college to sing for the children. "A most happy time was had by all our youngsters" . . . **WARREN-WASHINGTON COUNTIES CHAPTER** had a booth at the Washington County Fair . . . an automatic slide projector showed color pictures of the Chapter's summer day camp and Scouting

(Continued Next Page)

Chapter News (Continued)

program . . . and the Day Training Center at CATTARAUGUS COUNTY has gotten off to a good start according to their newsletter . . . camp a great success . . . 54 camper weeks at Camp Cornplanter . . . grateful thanks to American Legion and their Ladies for bringing many children from Perrysburg (J. N. Adams) to a fun party . . . County Fair Booth seems to be the thing . . . OTSEGO COUNTY CHAPTER had a booth at the County Fair at Morris . . . orders taken for Holland bulbs for spring planting . . . Chapter Family Picnic also held . . . Board of Cooperative Educational Services announced a driver train-



At annual Broome County dinner, l-r. Sen. Warren M. Anderson; Jefferson F. Meagher; Dr. John O'Brien; Dorothy Buehring; and A. Lawrence Abrams, President.

ing program for educable mentally retarded . . . ONTARIO COUNTY CHAPTER announces pre-vocational training class for young adults . . . class meets at Geneva Civic Center . . . and the Winnek Post of American Legion in Geneva conducted a house-to-house fund drive for NRCW . . . ERIE COUNTY Jaycees sponsor retarded children to summer camp . . . and the celebrated Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus . . . put on performances sponsored by Dollar Bills, Inc. for the benefit of retarded children in Buffalo . . . ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER has opened its new Activity Center . . . 226 W. Genesee Street . . . growing and moving ahead with President Joseph W. Munnis . . . announces Jewish, Protestant and Catholic religious programs for the mentally retarded . . . and it has started a building fund to take advantage of federal and state aid for construction . . . last year 10 of the students in the ARC Instructional Division left ARC to enter public schools . . . another from the Center now has a full time job earning an adequate salary . . . really exciting . . . ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER started its Day Training Center in September called "The PATH School of the Orange County Chapter, AHRC" . . . the PATH group officially became a part of ARC in a forward-looking merger . . . new special class opened in elementary school at Warwick . . . in the Newburgh class, there are 11 children including one blind, retarded, cerebral palsied child in a wheelchair and one blind retarded child without cerebral palsy . . . it has the largest number of members in good standing since being Chartered in 1954 . . . 107 and "the future looks very bright for further enlargement of our membership rolls," — The Torch, Chapter newspaper . . . Summer Day Camp in Mahopac sponsored by PUTNAM COUNTY CHAPTER . . . 9 children attended . . . SCHENECTADY COUNTY CHAPTER celebrates an Expansion and Improvement Grant from the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation . . . Sheltered Workshop now getting going . . . and the same for SUFFOLK COUNTY whose Workshop in Sayville will service 40 retarded adults . . . summer programs set up for the retarded in Brentwood Elementary School . . . parents enthusiastically cooperated, pooling automobiles to pick up children to and from school . . . and their auxiliaries are growing at a great pace . . . received a Roneo No. 350 mimeograph machine and equipment from Patchogue Lions Club . . . if you haven't seen their newspaper, "ARC Lamplighter" write to Suffolk County Chapter in Patchogue, N.Y. to get a copy . . . it's

(Continued Next Column)

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY CHANGES POLICY ON RETARDATION

A little over a year ago it was called to the attention of the Association that the New York City Housing Authority has listed mental retardation in the children of applicants for housing as a possible reason for excluding them.

After representations were made to the Housing Authority, a meeting was arranged with Mr. William Reid, the Chairman, and his staff in which this was explored in depths.

As a result of this meeting, it was agreed that any reference to mental retardation in their "desirability standards for admission of tenants" would be deleted.

"This already has already been done," writes Mr. William Reid, Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, "by issuance of a revised operating procedure, a copy of which is enclosed."

The chairman added, however, "You understand however, that it will be necessary for the Authority to evaluate mentally retarded individuals on a case basis to determine whether their tenancy may present any problems."

This change in policy by the City Housing Authority is another instance, said President Reville, of the necessity for eternal vigilance to protect the rights of the mentally retarded throughout their daily lives.

CHAPTER NEWS (Continued)

really professional . . . 500 retarded children enjoyed summer activities in the towns of Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip, Smithtown . . . North Fork Auxiliary of the Association, volunteers from the Junior Auxiliary of the Association, Girl Scouts and High School and College Students . . . all made this possible . . . 43 children and young adults participated as campers from our BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER . . . Day Training Center now has 85 enrolled and 24 on waiting list . . . The Southern Tier Catholic Nurses Association, with a membership of some 125 nurses, has offered the parents of retarded children the service of sitting, attending any retarded children in order to allow the parent a night out for business or pleasure . . . what a wonderful idea . . . BENEVOLENT SOCIETY — WILLOWBROOK CHAPTER of course deep in the Willowbrook controversy, nevertheless not being detracted from primary purpose of helping the retarded at Willowbrook . . . On September 21st a variety show was put on by the Willowbrook Band at the New York State Pavilion at the World's Fair . . . "They were simply terrific!" says Chapter newspaper, "Our Children." Pres. Shirley Epstein testimony before Joint Legislative Committee on September 9 most helpful in pinpointing conditions and needs at Willowbrook . . . John A. Regan, Executive Director of MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER has been named, "Boss of Year" in Rochester . . . Keeping his fingers crossed at the Work Training Center in Rochester that the Christmas Bulb project in Rochester will go . . . Six placements made in the Work Training Center since April 1st . . . Shirt marker, maintenance worker, dishwashing machine operator, kitchen helper . . . placement of 51 clients in temporary jobs also reported . . . lawn work, weeding, scrubbing and waxing floors, washing porches and windows, working in kitchens of YWCA and local Country Clubs for private parties . . . all trainees paid at rate of \$1.25 per hour . . . WELFARE LEAGUE FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, LETCHWORTH VILLAGE CHAPTER welcomed new Director Dr. Jacob Schneider, formerly Director of Syracuse State School . . . and of course we must not forget the wonderful 3-ring circus, an annual summer event . . . dedicated the Benjamin Droutman Pool last summer . . . named after Ben Droutman, former president, now deceased . . .

U. S. TO HIRE AGED TO HELP CHILDREN MENTALLY RETARDED INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED IN PROGRAM

The White House recently announced a new front in the Government's antipoverty program aimed at helping 5.5 million elderly citizens.

The first stage, to get under way immediately, will cost \$41 million and employ 18,200 elderly Americans, who, in turn, will help neglected and retarded children and bedridden elderly.

A statement announcing the new effort quoted President Johnson as having pointed out that one-third of all Americans over 65 years old were living in poverty, with an average income of \$1,150 a year.

"The aged poor have maturity and experience to offer," Mr. Johnson said. "They are eager to help themselves and others. We are going to use this rich, untapped human resource to help others less fortunate. In turn, it will enable these elderly people to find the dignity and usefulness they seek."

One of the first phases of the project is called "Foster Grandparents," in which the elderly will be "substitute parents" for neglected children in institutions. Within a year, it will reach into 50 states at a cost of \$10 million.

Foster Grandparents will begin in two parts:

First, 2,000 elderly poor will work with 5,000 neglected infants living in institutions. Twenty-two such projects in 20 states are starting immediately with \$2.7 million in grants.

Second, another 2,000 will help care for 2,000 older children in institutions. This project will begin in about a month.

In additional projects, 10,000 will be trained as home health aides to bring "help and comfort to the bedridden sick and disabled." 1,800 will start work this fall in both urban slums and rural areas caring for children from broken homes, and 2,400 will be trained this fall to meet the needs of mentally retarded children.

The elderly employees will be paid a minimum of \$1.25 an hour and an average of \$1.85 depending on scales provided under the program.

U.S.E.S. TESTS NOT TO BE USED FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

In correspondence with Mr. Bernard Rosenberg, Chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation Committee of NARC, John F. Henning, Undersecretary of Labor, has eliminated the USES tests for screening purposes with applicants who have been professionally diagnosed as mentally retarded and certified as capable of profiting from specified training or of performing a specific function.

According to Mr. Rosenberg, this will remove the bottleneck to training programs for potential jobs. Equally important, said Mr. Rosenberg, will be the change in attitude at the grass roots level of the United States Employment Service personnel that will result from the directive.

"In using the term mentally retarded," writes Mr. Henning, "The Department (of Labor) means an individual who has been diagnosed as mentally retarded by a professionally qualified person or agency in the area of mental retardation. In this context, we do not administer tests to this group, but will accept certification by the referring agency to the effect that the individual is capable of profiting from the training."

In another development, the United States Civil Service Commission announced that the authority for appointments of mentally retarded persons to Civil Service jobs has been extended until September 30, 1968. The bulletin announcing this extension points out that the mentally retarded proved to be faithful, willing employees who perform well in simple repetitive tasks for which they've been fully trained and that they tend to be more stable in their jobs than many employees with greater apparent potential.

EMPLOYER-TO-EMPLOYER

Seventy leading Connecticut businessmen met recently in a richly-paneled faculty room at Yale University to hear fellow employers describe their experiences in hiring the mentally retarded. The 70 didn't ask any questions but they listened intently.

This first-of-its-kind employer get-together was arranged by the Connecticut Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. There were no extravagant claims that the retarded could be better workers than anybody else but there was a recurring note of optimism that the retarded, properly trained, could help solve nagging labor problems faced by companies that hire the unskilled and semi-skilled.

As the manager of a Howard Johnson restaurant put it: "Certainly, the jobs the retarded fill are at the lower level of the scale . . . jobs that non-retarded people look down at. Yet the retarded reach upward, not downward, for these jobs. To be working, even at these jobs, is an achievement, something to be proud of. They want to succeed. They try so hard to succeed."

PROFILE OF FAILURE

The Association for the Help of Retarded Children in New York City drew this profile of the average young adult who applies for rehabilitation:

"The Central fact of life of the person coming to us is his history of failure. He is likely to have failed his parents by having been a late walker and late talker. He fell behind in school. As he grew older he lost the few friends he may have had. At 17 or before, he left school altogether. As others paired off into couples and groups, he was likely to stand out in his loneliness. If he did get a job, he did not hold it for long, feeling it was hopeless to try.

"When he comes to us he is apt to be friendless and jobless, bored with life at home, unhappy with himself. However, he is likely to know why he is a failure and in this knowledge lies his pain and his hope.

"One retardate summed up his aspirations this way: 'I want to be like other people. I want to marry, have kids, have money. I don't want to sit home and just sleep and eat and walk.'"

Rehabilitation can help. According to AHRC records, it has turned profiles of failure into profiles of success.

Nassau County Chapter is running the following two Charter Flights:

Spain and Portugal

March 12 to March 30, 1966 (19 days)
Flight, Hotels (Modified American Plan)
Travel within the Countries
\$420.00 per person double occupancy

Switzerland, Italy, Riviera, France

April 29 to May 20, 1966 (21 days)
Flight, Hotels (Modified American Plan)
Travel within the Countries
\$610.00 per person double occupancy

Anyone interested in these two wonderful vacations please write to Helen Kaplan, Nassau County Chapter Association for the Help of Retarded Children, 189 Wheatley Road, Brookville, Glen Head, N. Y. for details, description, and itineraries.

The financial override on any passenger will be returned to the Chapter to which he belongs.

If the President finds time to help the mentally retarded, what are you doing that's so important?

Find out how you can help. Write:
The President's Committee on
Mental Retardation Washington, D.C.



HEALTH AGENCIES RANK LOW IN UNITED FUND GIVING TO NEW YORK STATE

Assistance to animals frequently exceeds that to humans.

A study of giving patterns of United Funds in New York State, made by the staff of the State Association for Retarded Children, reveals that health agencies have low priority in United Fund giving.

Mental retardation, ranking second in terms of health problems, ranks 28th per capita return among the 49 groups listed. "It seems evident," says the report, that influences other than the scope of health or community problem, come into play in United Fund budgeting. One wonders if the community dollar is really going where the man in the street would have it go."

"It is interesting to note," states the report, "that out of 49 separate organizations listed, the so-called 'health organizations' can scarcely dent the top half of the financial totem pole. It also seems strange that in per capita income, the two health organizations which received the highest share of money are Heart and Cancer — groups who do not, by policy, ask to participate in Funds, but are sometimes placed there for 'cause money' by the Funds themselves."

Following is a table the health agencies in the 49 funds with their rank per capital income and rank in income per fund.

TABLE A

Agency	Rank In	Rank In Income
	Per Capita Income	Per Fund
Arthritis and Rheumatism	39	35
	(Tie with Alcoholism)	
Blind	26	22
Cancer	17	27
	(Tie with Children's Homes)	
Cerebral Palsy	21	29
Cystic Fibrosis	47	41
Hearing	45	32
Heart	16	30
Mental Health	37	37
	(Tie with USO)	
Multiple Sclerosis	33	15
Muscular Dystrophy	27	47
Retarded Children	28	31

Report also makes a comment on the United Fund distributions through organizations created to assist animals as compared to health agencies.

In 7 of 10 cases, the agencies created to assist animals receive as much, or more than, all or some of the health agencies.

For example, in one fund, the Blind received \$385.00, Cerebral Palsy \$200, Retarded Children \$100, and the Humane Society, \$400.00. In another Fund, Cerebral Palsy received \$5,900 and so did the Humane Society. Still an-

(Continued Next Column)

TELL TIME

It was his first job and already he was in trouble. The young man, IQ 54, had come to Terrett's Car Wash in Washington, D.C., from a local occupational training center. He had learned his duties well, but he arrived late every morning. Not by just minutes but by an hour or more.

Ely Wagner, the owner, spoke to him time after time, but his words didn't sink in. Tardiness persisted. Finally Wagner noticed something. He sat down and wrote a hasty note to the center:

"D. M. has been with us a while and he has one major difficulty. He comes to work late. I feel the reason for this is that he can't tell time. If you could arrange for instructions in telling time, and also see that he acquires an alarm clock, I'm sure his problem will be solved."

The center taught him to tell time. From then on he was late no longer. He has been on the job five years without a single tardiness.

(From a Newsletter of the President's Committee on the Employment of the Mentally Handicapped.)

UNITED FUNDS (Continued)

other, Retarded Children received \$2,000 and the Humane Society \$2,568.00.

The table follows:

TABLE B

Health Agencies	Humane Society or A.S.P.C.A.	
Fund A — Cerebral Palsy 5,900		5,900
Fund B — Cerebral Palsy 1,600		3,150
	Retarded Children 1,000	
Fund C — Arthritis and Rheumatism 400		3,000
	Hearing 65 —	
	Mental Health 3,000	
Fund D — Blind 5,124 —		
	Cerebral Palsy 4,000	2,568
	Retarded Children 2,000	
Fund E — Retarded Children 2,840		1,000
Fund F — Retarded Children 600		525
Fund G — Blind 1,135 —		
	Cerebral Palsy 800	1,250
Fund H —		400
Fund I — Blind 385 — Cerebral Palsy 200		400
	Retarded Children 100	
Fund J — Mental Health 8,042		4,750
Fund K — Blind 200 — Cancer 250		150
	Cerebral Palsy 400	
	Retarded Children 500	

The report concludes, "It appears on the basis of data gathered, that the relationship between the size of a problem and the United Fund has no meaning in terms of allocation."

The study was directed by John Bertrand, Assistant to the Executive Director of the New York State Association for Retarded Children.

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

19 UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

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