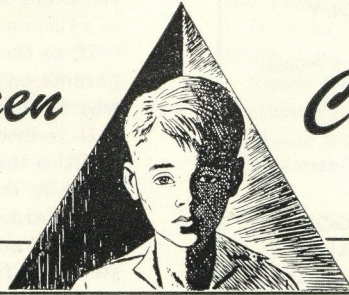


# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children Can Be Helped!*



VOL. IX — ISSUE No. 2

106

June-July 1957

## THREE CITED AT 8th ANNUAL DINNER

### Capacity Crowd Honors Powers, Steingut and Digges

The Eighth Annual AHRC Dinner, which took place on Saturday night, May 24, in the Sheraton-Astor's Grand Ballroom, was — as usual — a most brilliant affair.

In the presence of over one thousand guests, three men were honored for their outstanding services to the cause of the mentally retarded. They were Dr. Grover F. Powers in the field of medicine, Sam Cook Digges in public education, and Stanley Steingut in community service.

Dr. Grover F. Powers heads the National Scientific Research Advisory Board to the National Association for Retarded Children. His leadership has helped spur research in this long-neglected area. Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at Yale, Dr. Powers is known as the father of American pediatrics.

Sam Cook Digges was Greater New York Chairman of the 1956 National Retarded Children's Week and is Honorary Chairman of this year's campaign. In his capacity as General Manager of WCBS-TV, he helped immeasurably to put AHRC and the cause it serves on the air. He also, through his warm, personal interest, brought the subject of mental retardation to the attention of leaders in the communications field and the advertising industry.

New York Assemblyman Stanley Steingut is Vice-Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, and has helped spearhead many measures in the State Legislature on behalf of retarded children.

The Invocation was given by the Reverend John F. Mead,

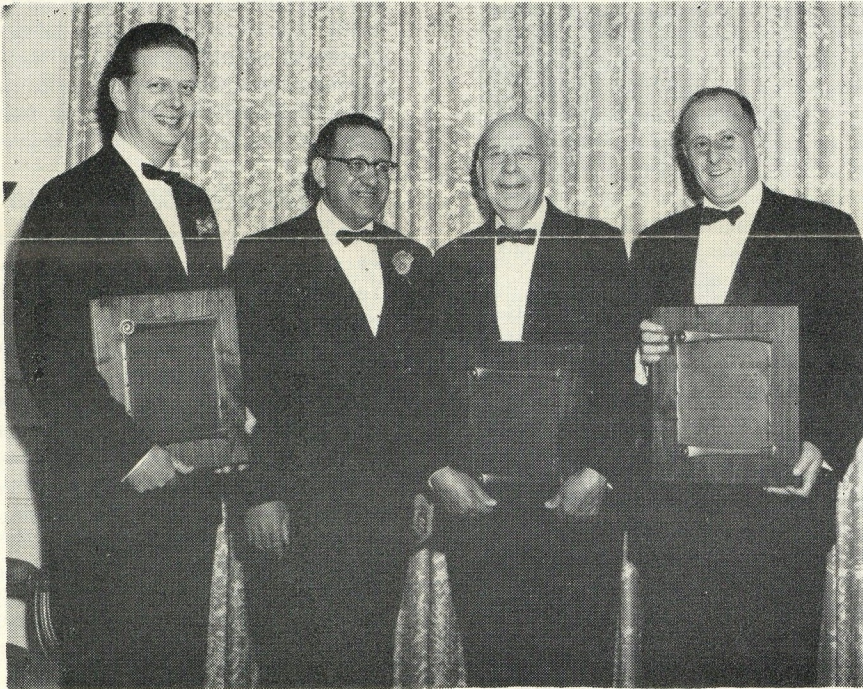
and the Benediction by Rabbi Jacob Cohen, both of Letchworth Village. AHRC President Bernard M. Fineson doubled in brass as master of ceremonies and award-giver, except in

the case of Dr. Powers, who was presented his plaque by Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital.

Among the honored guests were also: Dr. Emily Burr, of the Vocational Guidance Bureau; Mrs. M. Buxbaum, Lena Invalid Aid Society; Dr. Benjamin Kramer, head of Pediatrics, Maimonides Hospital, Brooklyn; Judge Bertha Schwartz; Hon. Morris J. Solomon; Dr. Joseph Pincus, Chief of Pediatrics, Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn; Professor Chris De Prosopo of the College of the City of New York and President of the A.A.-M.D.; Mrs. Arlyne Bernstein, North Hills League for Retarded Children;

Hon. Neil Lieblich; Mrs. Ann Elias, and Mrs. Nan Lerner, Ladies' Auxiliary, Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund; Hon. Arthur Levitt, Comptroller of the State of New York; Dr. Joseph Wortis, Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn; Mrs. Dave Clair, Joshua Orphan Aid Society; Mrs. Mollie Cohen, Sarah Starkman League for Handicapped Children; State Senator Harry Kraf; Mrs. Minnie Schaeffer, Gertrude Vos' Children's Fund; Assemblyman Frank Samansky; Dr. Isaac Wolfson, Letchworth Village; State Senator William Conklin; Katherine Lynch, Director of the Bureau for CRMD.

Juliana Rademacher, the little girl who sold more than \$500 worth of tickets, was introduced from the dais. The first prize of a Chevrolet car was won by Fred S. Clark of Brooklyn, N. Y.



A.H.R.C. Award Winners are (from left to right): Sam Cook Digges, Dr. Grover F. Powers, the Hon. Stanley Steingut. A.H.R.C. prexy Bernard M. Fineson stands between Digges and Dr. Powers.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR TRAINABLE CHILDREN MUST BE MANDATORY!



## OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by

### THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

200 FOURTH AVENUE — NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

ALgonquin 4-8203

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: BERNARD M. FINESON

Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

Associate Editors: MIRA EITINGON, CHARLES KLEIN

## 'ROUND AND 'ROUND

(An Editorial)

The proposed budget of the Board of Education this year included a request for 12 teachers for the Bureau for Children with Retarded Mental Development in the Elementary and Junior High divisions, 6 teachers for classes for the mentally retarded in the academic high schools and 8 teachers in vocational high schools.

We were informed that the Budget Director and the Board of Estimate had eliminated all these requests. At a very interesting meeting with the Budget Director, Mr. Abraham Beame, and his assistant, Mr. Gormley, we were informed that this was not the case; that the Board of Estimate had considered all of the requests for elementary and junior high school teachers, a little over 700 in number, and had granted the Board of Education money for about 620 additional teachers. It was the position of the Budget Director that he could not interfere in the administrative affairs of the Board of Education and that out of 620 new positions, Dr. Jansen had ample positions which he could assign to the C.R.M.D. if he felt that they had some priority.

Back we went to the C.R.M.D. and the Board of Education where we were informed that these positions were eliminated specifically by designation in the budget that was sent to the Mayor. Back we went to the Budget Director who said that this was not so; that the Board of Education is receiving between \$5,500 and \$6,000 a class in special State aid and they certainly could assign teachers to the C.R.M.D. Furthermore, said the Budget Director's office, the City cannot fill more than half the classes with qualified teachers for mentally retarded children and therefore suffers loss of State aid. Why, therefore, the request for more teachers when the original jobs cannot be filled? Back we went to the Board of Education, who informed us that all the classes for the mentally retarded are receiving State aid, and they are not being disqualified because of teachers. Back we went to the Director's office, who agreed that this possibly is the case, but insisted again that Dr. Jansen had the power to assign these teachers to the C.R.M.D. Bureau. Furthermore, said the Director's office, the High School Division had asked for no teachers for the mentally retarded and showed us a document which certainly seemed to leave out the mentally retarded by designation, although others were included. Back we went to the Board of Education who said that this is not so and showed us a document where the High School Division had included such a request, which apparently was eliminated. Back we went to the Director's office who said, "Well maybe so, but that he really had no knowledge of it".

And so round and round and round and round.

All we know is that, whether this has been done by the Board of Estimate, by the Budget Director's office, by Dr. Jansen or gremlins, the fact remains that the classes for the

## INSTITUTION FEES

(An Editorial)

Shouldn't the fact that the State has now raised the maximum fee for parents and guardians of children in State Institutions from \$110 to \$122 a month be of the utmost concern to everyone in New York?

If, as the Department of Mental Hygiene states, most of the parents pay very little, and the income is almost insignificant, why is the rate raised in this manner?

It is interesting to note that there are some physical disabilities that get the services from the State without a charge. What is the rationale for the distinction between them and the retarded or mentally ill?

We urge an immediate reconsideration of the total fee structure for State institutions.

## NEW INSTITUTIONS

(An Editorial)

It is simply fantastic to think that between the time a new State institution for the mentally retarded is approved and the date when the first spade of earth is turned, some eight years elapse.

And in the meanwhile? Institutions are 33⅓% overcrowded. Rome State School was built to house some 2500, and houses almost 5000. Children sleep in recreation rooms and even in the corridors. Programs are suffering enormously.

Intake of children under 5 is almost at a standstill. What are these deperate parents to do?

We wonder what it takes to move the powers that be to action. A new institution in Nassau County has been approved. The AHRC was asked to find 500 acres. Not one, but two parcels of land have been found by our Nassau County Chapter. No action. What in heaven's name are we to do?

## *Institutionalization Is Not Free*

There seems to be a misconception among many people that when a parent sends his child to a State institution in New York, his obligation for that child, financially, at least, are relieved. Nothing is further from the truth. The State has a right to set maximum fees that parents must pay according to their ability to do so.

It is interesting to note that the fee has been raised so that today, it is almost double what it was a few years ago. We are informed that the fee has just been raised this year from \$110 a month to \$122 a month.

Although it is true that most parents do not pay this maximum fee, nevertheless, if the principle of fees for institutions is going to approach almost the equivalent of payment to private schools, then I think it is the duty of the State to give services equivalent to private school services.

## *Did You Know That . . .*

Although New York State ranked sixth in the country per capita in personal income in 1955, its operating expenditures per pupil for the '56-'57 school year is the highest in the country: \$473 as against the next highest, New Jersey, \$397; and did you know that in average salary of classroom teachers in '56-'57, New York State was first, \$5,550, as against California's \$5,150?

mentally retarded cannot be expanded even though the number of children are increasing, even though there is a permissive law that there be classes for trainable children, even though there is a mandatory law that the educable (I.Q.'s 50-75) must be taken at the age of 5 and kept to 21.

We do not know whose fault — we do know who are the sufferers.

## NO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS IN NEW YORK STATE



# Campaign Plans In High Gear

The fund raising department has been busily engaged in setting up a Commerce and Industry Division, comprised of top executives representing the country's leading industries.

Our organization is extremely fortunate in having enlisted Mr. Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. of the Bristol-Myers Company as our Campaign Chairman, along with Mr. Sam Cook Digges, General Manager of WCBS-TV, Honorary Chairman.



LEE H. BRISTOL, JR.  
1957 Campaign Chairman

It is our aim under the chairmanship of Mr. Bristol, to enlist approximately 50 leading executives representing as many industrial, financial and commercial divisions. Thus far we have been successful in enlisting many top flight business men. Each committee man, a prominent individual in his field, will then solicit funds by personal contacts and mailings among his business associates and friends.

So far the following have consented to serve: Abrams, Stanley; President, Emerson Industrial Products; Allen, James; V-Pres., Atlas Corp.; Bengelsdorf, Harry; President, Dependable Printing Co.; Brown, Manning R.; V-Pres., N. Y. Life Insurance Co.; Brubaker, Earl; Dept. Manager, Products Div., Borden's Co.; Brust, Joseph A.; Lynch, McManus & Brust; Carson, John L.; National Broadcasting Co., Inc.; Capp, Al; Al Capp Enterprises Inc.; Christenberry, Robert K.; Pres., Ambassador Hotel; Corey, Frances, Exec. V-Pres.; R. H. Macy & Co.; Cruise, Philip; Chairman, N. Y. C. Housing Authority; Cuyler, Lewis B.; V-Pres., First National City Bank; Egbert, Lester; Pres., Brown, Crosby & Co.; Fehr, Richard; Doherty, Clifford, Steers & Shenfield; Flagler, Palen; Dir. of Advertising, J. P. Stevens & Co.; Fraker, Harrison; Pres., Topics Publishing Co.; Frothingham, Samuel; William L. Crow Construction Co.; Geismar, Stanley; Joshua Meier Co., Inc.; Hall, I. Davis; Legal Staff, National Distillers; Johns, John; V-Pres., Batten, Barton, Durstine, & Osborn; Johnstone, Edmund F.; Dowd, Redfield, & Johnstone; Katz, Murray; V-Pres., Williamsburgh Steel Products Co.; Levi, Dino; Proprietor, Dinolevi; Levison, Stuart Edward; Past Pres. Bx. Bar Assoc.; Lipner, Jordan; Pres., Feuer Trucking Co.; Mobley, Louis R.; Assistant to Dir., Management Development, International Business Machines; Racusin, David S.; General Manager, Barbizon Plaza Hotel; Sturhahn, Herbert C.; Insurance Broker, F. C. Carr & Co.; Sutphen, Henry; Pres., American Irving Savings Bank; Wall, Edgar B.; V-Pres., Federal Paper Board Co.; Weinberg, Cyril; Hausen, Holfman & Weinberg, Resident Buyers.

A Women's Division, made up of socially prominent women, is also being organized. Mrs. Maxime L. Hermanos will serve as chairman with Mrs. Doris Asiel Odum and Mrs. Ralph Gore as co-chairmen. The women will undertake a special fund raising event the latter part of this year, that will lend much prestige to our organization.

Mrs. Joseph Gitter, who has done such a wonderful job in the past, will again serve as chairman of Volunteers for National Retarded Children's Week, which takes place November 17-28. Cyril Weinberg is Fund Raising Chairman for the New York City Chapter and Julian Banner for the New York State AHRC.

## WOLLMAN FOUNDATION GRANT TO A.H.R.C. WORKSHOP

A grant of \$5,000 by the William J. Wollman Foundation to AHRC has been announced by Achilles H. Kohn, president of the Foundation.

It is to be used in support of the Training Center and Workshop.

Funds distributed by the Wollman Foundation must be used exclusively for public, charitable, educational or scientific uses and purposes in the City of New York.

(We are proud to qualify! The Eds.)

## OVR Grant to Workshop Renewed and Increased

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has increased — for the third consecutive year — the grant given to the AHRC Workshop and Training Center. The amount has risen from \$59,000 to \$66,000 for the current fiscal year. In addition, the New York League for AHRC has provided \$30,000 for the current year.

Last year, the Workshop served 98 trainees, of which 21 found employment in outside industry. These are earning at the rate of \$38,000 a year now as against zero before their entry into the Workshop.

The record speaks for itself.

## Cunningham Ladies Work For Us



Mrs. Bess Lacher, president of the Cunningham Women's League for Handicapped Children hands visible means of support to A.H.R.C. president Bernard M. Fineson.

## LABOR LISTS NEEDS OF RETARDED

A survey recently completed by the AFL-CIO Community Services Committee listed mental retardation, especially among children, as a community problem requiring more attention.

The report also underlined the need for enlightened public attitude toward those children not qualified to enter the normal classes of the public school system.

The survey, which checks 60 cities, found that present public assistance programs are inadequate, especially when unemployment, illness or other factors outside family control, are present.

## CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are urgently needed to help in this office — there is telephoning, typing and other clerical tasks to be done. House captains are also needed for the door-to-door drive, in addition to those who would be interested in volunteering their time with canisters. Call AL 4-8203 to volunteer.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR TRAINABLE CHILDREN MUST BE MANDATORY!



## "The Teacher's Point of View" Theme of 4th Annual Teachers Confab

**Dr. Ignacy Goldberg, Main Speaker**

"The Teacher's Point of View" for the teaching of mentally retarded children was explored during the 2-day State-wide conference of Administrators, Supervisors and Teachers of Classes for Trainable Mentally Retarded Children which was held at Carnegie International Center on May 3-4. This was the 4th such annual conference held under the auspices of the AHRC.



A seminar of administrators and supervisors of classes for the trainable in Public School, Parent-sponsored and State Schools, chaired by Charles Becker, Associate in Education of Mentally Retarded in the Bureau for Handicapped Children, State Department of Education, took place on the Conference's first day. Discussants were Dr. Frances P. Connor, Teachers College, Columbia University; Professors Louis Rosensweig and Chris De Prospro, of Brooklyn College and CCNY respectively (Prof. De Prospro is president of the A.A.M.D.), Rhoda Lipman, Director of AHRC Classes; Katherine Lynch, Director of the CRMD Bureau; Charles McAllister, Director of Education for the Department of Mental Hygiene; Dr. Irving Ratchik, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Levittown School District; and Dr. Charles Wallendorf, Director of the Vocational Education and Extension Board of Nassau County.

Dr. I. Ignacy Goldberg, Educational Consultant to NARC, spoke of his impressions gathered on an 8-month survey during which he visited over 150 classes for trainables, 15 State residential schools, 6 sheltered workshops and 3 diagnostic clinics in 28 states, when he also met with over 3,000 teachers, psychologists, social workers and parents in 16 workshops throughout the country. He found that there are about 100,000 trainables (I.Q. under 50) of school age in the U.S. 25,000 of these are at present being schooled. Of that number, 10,000 are in public school, 7,000 in private day schools, 5,000 in State institutions and 3,000 in private residential schools.

He urged the importance of making the training for these children operate on a functional level rather than by type. "There is too much specialization by categories of mental retardation rather than by level of possible achievement," he said. He also pointed out that the retarded child must be trained for the world of tomorrow rather than the world of yesterday. "His learning tool should be the vacuum cleaner instead of the sweeping broom, the electric saw rather than the hand saw. The old-fashioned primer must be replaced by the tape recorder and the movie," Dr. Goldberg concluded.

### STATE SCHOLARSHIPS TO TEACHERS GOING FAST

126 training grants in the sum of \$300 each have been awarded by the State Department of Education up to May 1st for the improvement of teaching of mentally retarded children. This is part of an allocation of \$50,000 for training teachers of these children who wish to enter this field. School

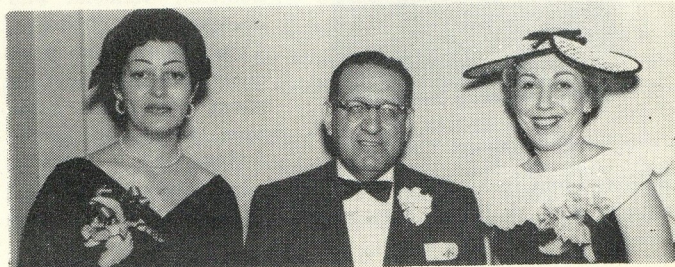
## MORE A.H.R.C. CLASSES TAKEN OVER BY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Broome County Chapter seems to be having extraordinary success with their school district organizing classes for trainable children. After Binghamton had taken over 4 other classes operated by the chapter, the chapter proceeded to organize 2 classes for those on the waiting list, one in Endicott and the other in Binghamton. We have just received an announcement from Bob Sturdevant that Endicott has taken over a class from 8 to 12 year-olds and Binghamton another on a half-day basis.

Sturdevant adds that there is a strong possibility that Binghamton will also take another intermediate age group if we (AHRC) can help get a teacher.

Other chapters please take note!

### At The North Hills League Luncheon



Trio posing at the North Hills League for Retarded Children Luncheon are (left to right): Mrs. Edith Schwalbe, v.p. and Luncheon Chairman; Bernard M. Fineson; and Mrs. Arlyne Bernstein, president.

## Children's Bureau Maps Project for Retarded

A federal program, aiming at early detection of mental retardation, will begin during 1958, largely as a result of the efforts and activities of the AHRC.

Administered by the Children's Bureau, the program was made possible by a 1956 congressional appropriation of \$1,000,000.

Previous research has indicated that much retardation is linked with two diseases based on errors of metabolism, probably inherited, which can be cured or improved by diet with early detection. These are phenyleketonuria and galactosemia. The treatment of the former is a diet restricted in phenylalanine, an amino acid essential to growth, with just enough given so that growth continues. This is a difficult and expensive process. Galactosemia is treated with a galactose-free diet. This is relatively simple. A third affliction, called H-disease, has also been identified. Working with this knowledge, the various projects established through this program hope to make an early diagnosis of child retardation, thus permitting early treatment and an opportunity for the child to reach full potential.

Rudolph Hormuth, formerly Assistant Executive Director of the AHRC, and now the Children's Bureau specialist on retardation, has traveled extensively throughout the United States preparing for the various projects. Mr. Hormuth credits parents groups for being the inspiration for the program.

Diagnostic clinics, training programs, and treatment centers are being set up in 11 states, the District of Columbia, Alaska and Hawaii.

supervisory personnel directly involved with working with mentally retarded children are also eligible for the grant.

Applications should be made directly to the Bureau for Handicapped Children, Division of Pupil Personnel Services, State Education Department, Albany, New York, or to Colleges and Universities of New York State offering programs for preparing teachers of mentally retarded children.

## NO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS IN NEW YORK STATE



# SEEN AT OUR 8th ANNUAL DINNER



Caught by the candid camera are (l. to r.): Mrs. Stanley Steingut, Comptroller Arthur Levitt, Assemblyman Stanley Steingut, Hon. Neil Lieblich, Bernard M. Rosenberg, Mrs. Rosenberg, the Hon. Vito Lanza, Member of the Board of Education.



Joseph T. Weingold scores a point with Dr. and Mrs. Grover F. Powers.



Dr. Lawrence Taft of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Mrs. Taft watch the birdie while A.H.R.C. V.P. Irving Krakoff watches them.



Representing the Sarah Starkman League and the Sarah Starkman Junior League; Mr. and Mrs. Sol Walter Cohen and Miss Lorraine Gross and her fiance, Morton J. Getman.



A.H.R.C. ladies: Mrs. Barbara Weingold in a tete-a-tete with Mrs. Anne Gitter and Mrs. Mildred Fineson. Harris Fineson stands by.



State Senator William Conklin in a friendly chat with Mrs. Joseph T. Weingold, Mrs. Conklin and Judge Bertha Schwarz.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR TRAINABLE CHILDREN MUST BE MANDATORY!**



# State Convention Hails \$25,000 Research Institute Study

Announcement that Governor Harriman has signed a bill allocating \$25,000 for preliminary study and plans for a State research institute for mental retardation was one of the high-lights of the State convention held at Long Beach, April 26th, 27th and 28th. The Association's Nassau County Chapter was host for more than 100 delegates representing the 26 chapters of AHRC. Announcement of the passage of the bill and its signature was termed by President Bernard M. Fineson, "An achievement of national importance and potentially most significant legislation ever passed for the benefit of the mentally retarded".

Delegates attended workshops covering fund raising, recreation, vocational rehabilitation and sheltered workshops, institutions, and education.

It was announced that there are now 66 classes for trainables in 18 communities in the State. Although the State Education Department is encouraging the establishment of classes for trainable children, though the legislation is only permissive, communities are lagging in this respect. Mr. Weingold's report brought out that the major cities such as Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany and New York have done nothing to implement this law. The Executive Director stated that the chapters of AHRC spent \$749,702 in the past year on services for the mentally retarded. The greatest number served, 845, were in recreation services with \$40,000 spent. Next were 731 served in classes operated by the Association costing \$400,000, which is almost 60% of the total spent.

Four chapters, Monroe, Nassau, New York and Clinton, support clinics with an expenditure of \$43,000. Four chapters, Nassau, New York, Oneida-Herkimer and Westchester, operate sheltered workshops with Chemung helping support a workshop for physically handicapped and mentally retarded. Expenditures for these are \$142,000.

The report highlighted the considerable and great development of services by AHRC chapters in the last few years, and pointed out the necessity for more participation on the part of governmental agencies. Implementation of the Education Law is vital to relieve the chapters of some of this burden so that they may turn their efforts to other services which have not received the same attention as education.

## ADVISORS MEET

The Advisors to the State AHRC met with the Board of Directors and delegates to consider a number of problems that had been presented to them through our Executive Director. Present were Professor Chris De Prosio, Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Dr. Joseph Wortis, Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, Mrs. Edna Baer, and the Honorable Neil Leiblich, as a guest.

The questions presented were as follows: 1). Are we to continue pressing for other agencies to take over the services that had been presented to them through our Executive Director. Present were Professor Chris De Prosio, Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Dr. Joseph Wortis, Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, Mrs. Edna Baer, and the Honorable Neil Leiblich, as a guest.

The questions presented were as follows: 1). Are we to continue pressing for other agencies to take over the services that our survey shows we are rendering? 2). How long do we call our projects "pilot" or "demonstration" when in practice they become service projects? 3). Do we try to change the philosophy of the State where traditionally services have been in the hands of voluntary agencies for the State to begin to operate such services? 4). Do we leave all medical research to the National Association? 5). Do we continue to support teacher training through our own fund raising efforts? 6). Shall we enter into the field of the emotionally disturbed and retarded child? Suppose funds are limited, what are the priorities in such a situation? 7). What shall we do about the terminal workers in our Sheltered Workshop?

# A.H.R.C. WORKSHOP PRESENTED AT WASHINGTON MEETING

A slide and motion picture presentation of the AHRC Training Center and Sheltered Workshop made by our Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, was the highlight of a meeting of the States' Vocational Rehabilitation Council at the offices of Vocational Rehabilitation in Washington on May 21st.

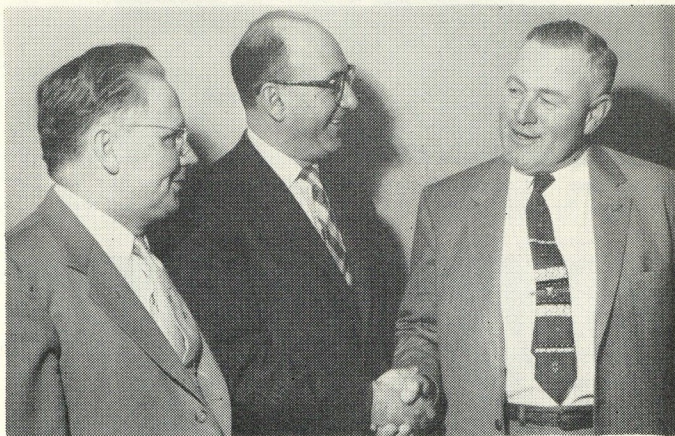
The States' Vocational Rehabilitation Council consists of the Directors of State Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation and Commissions for the Blind in the United States. Chosen for presentation were 5 research projects sponsored by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. They were Epi-Hab, a workshop for epileptics in Los Angeles, the Cerebral Palsy Work Classification and Evaluation Unit at the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled in New York, Optical Aids Clinic at the Industrial Home for the Blind, Work Adjustment Center of Jewish Vocational Service in Chicago, and the AHRC Training Center and Sheltered Workshop.

A slide presentation was specially prepared for this meeting. The motion picture was a kinescope of the "Eye on New York" news show on C.B.S.

Assisting Mr. Weingold in the presentation was Mr. Max Dubrow, Director of the AHRC Training Center and Workshop. Most of the discussion and questions centered on the problems of the retarded. State Directors were almost unanimous in their opinion that this was one of the most needed areas for development in Vocational Rehabilitation of a very difficult group.

In connection with the presentation, a brochure, "Sheltered Workshop Operation for the Mentally Retarded" was prepared by the AHRC and is available in limited quantities at \$1 per copy.

## IN PLATTSBURG



Joseph T. Weingold (center) greets Lawrence W. West, Chairman of Clinton County A.H.R.C. Building Committee. Looking on is George D. Cameron, president of the Clinton Chapter.

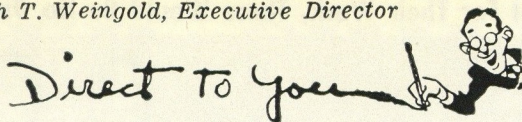
8). Should we insist on specialized services for the retarded?

A great deal of dynamic discussion ensued on these topics, which was enthusiastically joined in by the delegates and the Board. It was the opinion of all present that many new ideas had been presented and avenues for future action were laid out.

This was one of the most successful conventions that the Association has held. The next convention will be in Syracuse November 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

## NO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS IN NEW YORK STATE





The considerable number of new laws that were passed in the last few years through the efforts of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation have many implications in terms of their interpretation and implementation.

Perhaps the one that lends itself to most discussion with reference to implementation is the law which provides that where special classes for the mentally retarded are set up by local school districts, they shall provide such services for mentally retarded children from the chronological age of 5 to 21. The question very naturally arises: what kind of services shall be provided, and for whom, after the age of 17 or 18 when these youngsters were generally dismissed from school?

For years prior to this, AHRC, together with the Bureau for CRMD, has urged establishment of a vocational or occupational continuation school for youngsters beyond the age of 17 or 18. As a matter of fact, this was once approved by the Board of Superintendents and was included in the budget to the tune of \$150,000. A school, P.S. 2 in Manhattan, was even picked for the first such continuation school. Suddenly however, this item was dropped from the budget and new ideas began to creep in about integration, etc., etc.

We are now extremely concerned about statements that we have seen by the High School Teachers Association and parents groups who do not seem to understand the philosophy behind this bill or the services necessary for their children. For example, the statement is now made that high schools should be built for the mentally retarded to provide instruction for them beyond the age of 18 without regard to what their mental attainments are. This is a curious approach, indeed, when we understand that for years New York City has had special classes both in the academic and vocational high schools for mentally retarded who could attain certain academic standards.

It was certainly not the intention of this Association or of those who backed this bill, that such classes should be discontinued and that these youngsters should be put into one high school for all — no matter what their ability. On the contrary, it is the intention that, where youngsters can meet these requirements, they should be, as heretofore, in special classes in academic and vocational high schools, and that such classes must immediately be expanded.

It was the clear intention of the bill that facilities suitable to the mental attainment of the educable mentally retarded children should be provided up to their 21st birthday. It is intended for those youngsters who cannot achieve the academic requirements necessary for placement in special classes in the existing academic and vocational high schools. It is for those youngsters who heretofore have not had any possibility for secondary school education. It is not intended to be a dumping-ground for all the mentally retarded, but a specialized service for those who need it, even as we have clearly demonstrated in our Sheltered Workshop and Training Center.

This does not mean that if a parent says: "I do not want my youngster out of school at the age of 18" that he shall then be put in a regular class. This is contrary to the law. Further, this does not mean that if a youngster can be in a special class that has been established in a vocational or academic high school, that he shall be put into this special school. This is contrary to the best philosophy and practice that we have had heretofore. I must repeat to those misguided teachers and parents that this is an additional service for those who need it if they are to remain in the school system until the age of 21.

## EDUCATION FOR RETARDED NOW MANDATORY TO 21

A new law that has just been passed and signed by the Governor provides that educable mentally retarded children must receive such services from the ages of 5 to 21. Parents are urged not to accept dismissal from schools at the age of 17 or 18. Furthermore, parents are urged not to accept placement of their children in regular grades after the age of 17 or 18.

If you have any questions, please communicate with Mr. Weingold at the AHRC office, 200 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, New York. It is the obligation of the school system now to provide education suitable to the mental attainment of such children until their 21st birthday.

Remember, however, that they must be educable, I.Q.'s, according to law, between 50 and 75.

### Wassaic Teacher Honored



For her pioneering work in the area of teaching severely retarded children in an institution, Mrs. Marie Yegella, a teacher at Wassaic State School, last month received the Governor Charles E. Hughes Award in Public Administration.

## LASKER FOUNDATION HONORS DOCUMENTARY ON RETARDATION

One of the Albert Lasker Medical Journalism Awards for outstanding reporting on medical research and public health during 1956 was given to Station WCBS-TV, New York, for its presentation of "The Wassaic Story", dealing with mental retardation.

The award was presented at a brilliant luncheon honoring the winners held at the Ambassador Hotel in New York City on May 1. The prizes consist of \$2,000 each, illuminated scrolls and silver statuettes of the Winged Victory of Samothrace, symbolizing victory over death and disease.

Among the distinguished guests were Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rep. John Fogarty, who was also the main speaker, Dr. Howard Rusk, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, Dr. Paul Hoch, Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, who also spoke, Dr. Leona Baumgartner, Commissioner of Health of New York City, and our own Sam Cook Digges.

It is important to understand this, otherwise there will be confusion and chaos. I am quite sure that the Bureau for CRMD agrees with what we have said here. In fact, I hope that I am here putting before the parents and professionals what the Bureau for CRMD feels should be done to implement this law.

We just must grow up to know what we are talking about, and must assume a responsibility for our statements. This presupposes careful consideration and careful understanding of what is meant by the program that is being presented. The approach that there should be a high school or a secondary school where all the retarded children should go after the age of 17 is purely emotional and is not in the best interest of all the retardates.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR TRAINABLE CHILDREN MUST BE MANDATORY!



# BOOK REVIEW

"RETARDED CHILDREN CAN BE HELPED". Photographs by Cornell Capa, text by Maya-Pines, Channel Press, Price \$5.00.

The authors of this interesting book worked on the article about retarded children that appeared a few years ago in Life Magazine. In writing that article, however, they had taken so many pictures and written so much more text than what was used in the magazine that they felt a necessity for bringing to the world's attention what they had found out about what was being done for retarded children. The result is this book, "Retarded Children Can Be Helped", which uses as its title the motto of the AHRC, and which has been adopted by the National Association.

This is one of the most beautiful books brought out about the problem of the mentally retarded and what parents groups and the communities are doing to help them develop to their full capacity.

It is an important book because the problem is presented in a manner to reach the public rather than in the usual, less-than-inspiring professional approach or as an emotional personal experience. It should be a source of great satisfaction to all those who recognize their efforts in these pages, as well as an inspiration to others who are just beginning this work or contemplating such services.

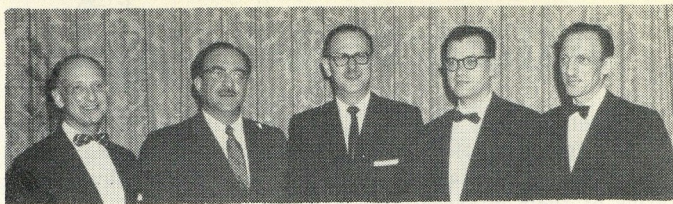
The chapter on the Southburg Training School should be read by every State agency dealing with the mentally retarded. As, indeed, we believe, they should read the rest of the book.

It is important to note the many facets of mental retardation that are dealt with in terms of real children and what actually happened to them, not on any theoretical basis. We, at AHRC, are flattered, indeed, by the many references to the efforts of our chapters, but we must add that what is being done there is being repeated all over the country.

If we have any criticism at all to make, it is the price of \$5, which is a big bite for most people to take. I suppose, however, that such a profusely illustrated book is expensive to produce, but we do wish it would have been possible to put it out a little cheaper.

In any case, it has our unqualified approval and admiration for a job very well done, indeed.

## But For Their Work, There Would Be No Dinner



The hardworking Dinner Committee: (l. to r.) George Greene, Seymour Rubin, Chairman Emil Goldstein, Joseph Gitter, Leo Jacobs.

## Advisors On Retardation To Interdepartmental Health Resources Board

Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody and Professor Chris De Prosio, Advisors to the AHRC, and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, have been appointed members of the newly created Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation to the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board. Dr. Slobody is Chairman of the Committee.

The Board, which is the successor to two previous agencies, the Mental Health Commission and the Interdepartmental Health Council, was established for the purpose of making possible joint planning and action in regard to physical and mental health problems which are of direct concern to more than one department or agency of State Government.

Its Executive Director is Dr. I. Jay Brightman, and Mental Hygiene Commissioner Dr. Paul H. Hoch is Chairman of the Board. Other members are the Commissioners of Correction, Education, Health, Labor, Mental Hygiene and Social Welfare, the Chairmen of the Division of Parole and the Workmen's Compensation Board, and the Administrative Director of the Joint Hospital Survey and Planning Commission.

## ONEIDA-HERKIMER RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT FOR WORKSHOP

The application for the Oneida-Herkimer Chapter of the Association has received an expansion project grant under Section 4(a)2 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act for a "Training Center and Workshop for Retarded Persons over 17 years of age". The sum is \$5,664.75 for the period Feb. 1st to June 30th, 1957.

This grant is made on the premise that Oneida-Herkimer will put up another \$3,935. This they already have done. The Workshop is now in operation under the direction of George Hammil and has 10 trainees with room for expansion to 20 or 25.

This is a most heartening development and points the way to other chapters throughout the state who have not already started this important project.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.  
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