

REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN E. FOGARTY, 2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, at Open Meeting of the Parents Council for RETARDED CHILDREN OF RHODE ISLAND. JOURNAL AUDITORIUM, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND. DECEMBER 7, 1955.

Research is needed in order to answer basic questions on the impaction of mental retardation for public school programs. It is estimated that but 2 and 3% of school age population consists of those sufficiently retarded to need special education - approximately 1 million children.

Accurate information is needed about the various categories of retardation represented among these children and the total number actually falling within each category. A clear picture of the nature and extent of the physically handicapped existing among them is also important in planning a proper program. More detailed records are needed in order to evaluate the effect of various state laws or attitudes.

Most important of all, it is necessary that the schools begin to develop a variety of organizational and instructional programs which will enable them to meet the needs of retarded children on all levels.

It is proposed that the Office of Education undertake a program of research of educational problems of the mentally retarded which will include the following:

1. Establishment of standard definitions of the common terminology which will be acceptable to the majority of workers in the field.
2. Establishment of a reporting system for the collection of general purpose statistics on the mentally handicapped children in the public schools.
3. Collection and collation of the important research studies which have already been done or are being done in the area of mental retardation.
4. Investigation of the qualitative and quantitative accomplishments of learning among various categories of mentally handicapped children.
5. Evaluations of developmental and instructional techniques in school programs for mentally handicapped children.

Cooperative arrangements will be made with one or more colleges or universities which express interest in investigating the matter of learning in the mentally handicapped field in order that they may learn more effectively.

Cooperative arrangements will be made also with state and local officials in approximately four communities which have been providing continuous programs and schools for the handicapped in order to establish standards of the organizational and instructional techniques being used.

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