

TV closeup on Island

Some cases of mental retardation predictable in unborn, he says

By JOHN NEEDHAM that as many as one-third of the that in such cases retardation said, workers at the institute, ion, even if the parents' pre- Infections are studied in mental re- Mayor's Committee on Mental cases of severe mental retardation is "caused by something that on Forest Hill Rd. next to the virus children are normal. virology section and Jervis tardation," especially through a Retardation that 12 community The director of the Institute tion are caused by genetic de- was there at the conception of Willowbrook State School, "can Such a forecast can be made spoke especially of the debilitated he set up to study the centers be set up in the city for Basic Research in Mental eficiencies. the child." tell in advance when an un- through studies of relatives of tating effects of both German subject. The panel, Jervis in- help the mentally retarded. One Retardation said yesterday. Dr. George A. Jervis said in some instances, Jervis born child will suffer retarda- director.

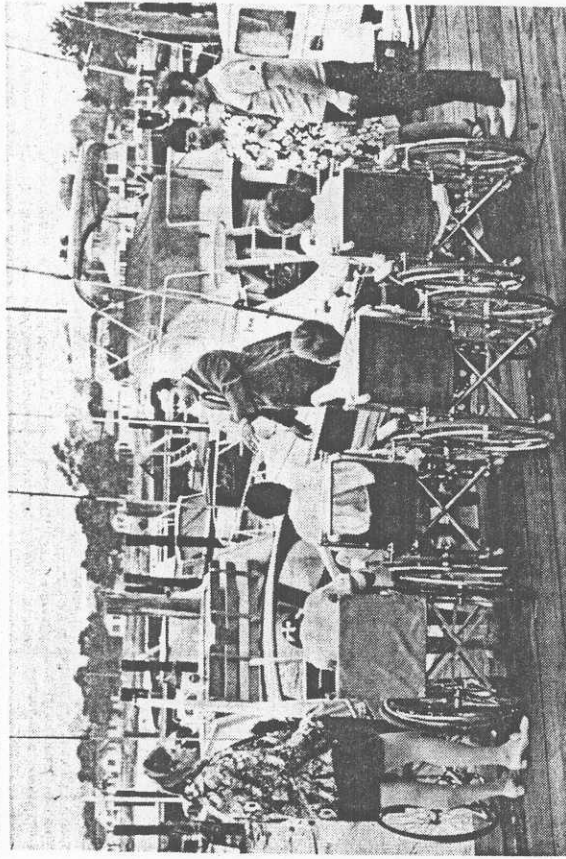
Jervis made his remarks on measles suffered in infancy. that time it was largely in the Jervis said that in many cases it is "not necessary for the "Staten Island Today" tel- In New York State alone, he planning stages. cases is "not necessary for evision program, broadcast said, "many cases of severe. As a result of the panel's a mentally retarded child to live yesterday over WNYC tel- mental retardation are caused study, the federal government be kept in a hospital. The best evision, on UHF Channel 31, by measles," caught by an in- decided to establish similar thing is a good home." and laped for rebroadcast-fant. This occurs "probably facilities through the country. He went on to say that de- Friday at 6 p.m. and Sunday only in one out of 10,000 cases Now there are 10 such insti- velopments in the field in the at 4:30 p.m. but considering how many tules, none completely finished, next 10 to 20 years should en- He also spoke favorably of able those in the field to "know

and H. Amberg, Jr., assistant early childhood "it's a substan- the recommendation of the much more than we know city editor of the Advance.

The center began operating. The institute is "mostly de- nearly two years ago, before voted to the severe forms of construction was completed, mental retardation," according When fully staffed, there will to Dr. Jervis. "His research is be 350 persons working in the directed toward the causes of 10 departments among which mental retardation, not so much are biochemistry, pharmacol- loward educational factors, not ogy, virology, neuropathology so much toward social factors' and psychology.

Speaking of the pharmacol- Although there is a 50-bed ogy, or drug, section, Jervis hospital at the institute, "only said the staff is experimenting the cases we're interested in, in an attempt to get a chemi- that will give us some leads," cal to improve the intelligence are accepted, since the primary of a retarded child. "We should function is studying causes ra- be able to do it," he com- ther than a cure, he said. mented, "we now have things Dr. Jervis credited former that can make people more President John F. Kennedy with being "instrumental in stimu-

The director summed up his and the institute's work: "Our big hope is prevention. It's not so much cure but prevention."



Retarded children smell salt air...

Explaining the lore of the sea to these Willowbrook State School children at Shoals Dock, Great Kills, are, left to right, Miss Diana Bergton, a teacher, Joseph Carlo, education supervisor, and Miss Louise Cognata and Al Lambert, also teachers.

S.I. Advance Photos by Frank J. Johns

