

educational, recreational, occupational, as well as residential," said Dr. Michael pointing to the fact that money isn't the only factor necessary for a working operation but "proper staffing as well."

He, too, cited the need for getting the community involved.

"We service both Williamsburg and Greenpoint areas consisting of several hundred thousand people. We've been busy spreading the word while waiting for money for equipment and staff," Michael said.

This project, as well as the one being constructed at Kings County, is financed by the State Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Corp.

The Kings County facility will house and train approximately 744 mentally retarded children and adults in a village-like complex of 15 two story residential buildings. The buildings, grouped in five clusters, surround a one-story central services building that the workmen now call "the core."

The core is divided into quadrants: administration and infirmary; swimming pool, gymnasium, library, physical and occupational therapy; education; and services and recreation.

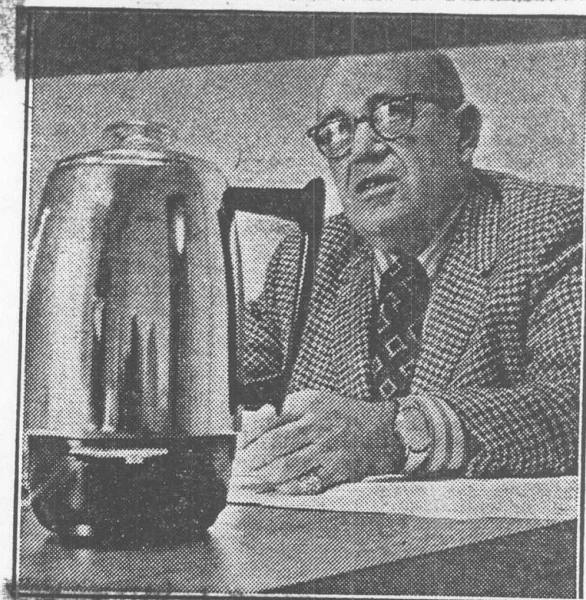
Residents will sleep in two and four bedrooms grouped around a small enclosed court. Each "family" of eight will share a living room, and three families (24 residents) will share a dining and multi-purpose activity room.

"Our pride and joy is the outdoor development which will include small and group play areas adjacent to each residential cluster," said Michael. The facility will open, hopefully, some time this summer.

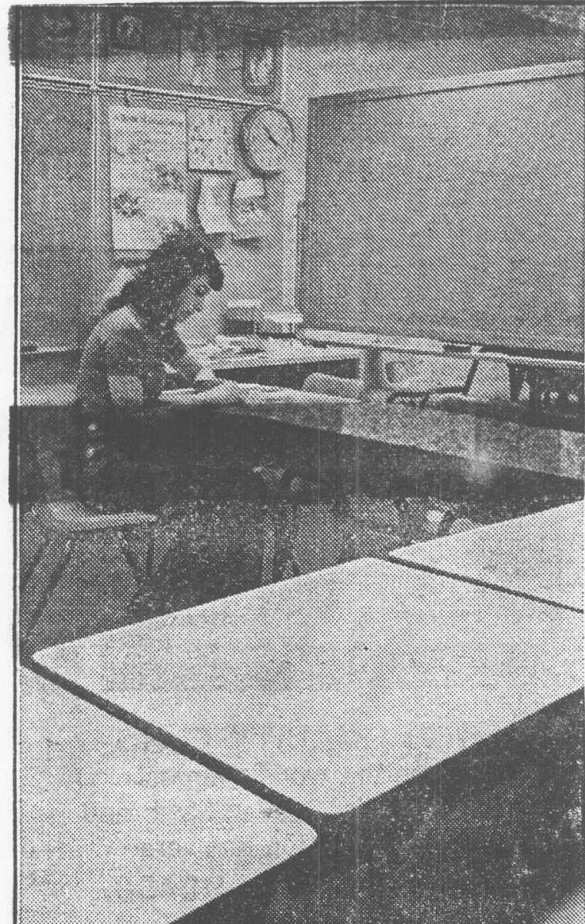
For the benefit of those who seek those alternatives to institutional care there is also a non-profit, non-sectarian agency, called Retarded Infants Services at 386 Park Ave. South, N.Y. 10016.

It has developed a number of programs specifically designed to stem retardation and prevent institutionalization. These programs include home aide assistance, visiting parents, foster care and individual and group counselling. When necessary a qualified development psychologist provides evaluative testing and the services of a psychiatrist are available for parents or relatives.

Anyone wishing to receive the services may apply by telephoning the Social Services Department of RIS at 889-5464.



Dr. Bernard Tasse, director of Queens State School, works in his conference room.



Teacher Judith Peck prepares lessons for a class at Queens State School, Corona.

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