

...mental preparatory program... offices of the S.I. Urban League. There are 17 main... up to age 20, some are now out of Willowbrook, attending the program

We interviewed them and their two instructors. The instructors felt that the student still at Willowbrook was slower than his "graduated" counter-part due to "the lack of exposure to a concrete program of learning."

"These boys are eager to learn and we have no problems in getting their interest."

When asked if they could note any side-effects from the tranquilizing drugs the boys are given they said, "Yes, they even fall asleep during the movies."

"You know, we hear how unmanageable they are at Willowbrook and that may be true. Here we have no problems."

When asked if their inability to meet IQ standards for their peer groups was a problem: "We cannot see that they have any intellectual deficiency. As we said they have not been exposed. The slower boys are still learning the alphabet. The advanced boys are reading books that are advanced compared to the so-called normal child their age in the public school."

Mrs. Glasser was asked about the IUA program and the allegation that these same boys were not being properly prepared at Willowbrook. "No comment. I will show you our program and you can decide for yourself. That's all I can tell you."

Many attendants and professionals have taken note of the inability of the education program to prepare the resident for adulthood.

Attendants in Building No. 7 designed a program called S.C.A.D. - Stimulation, Coordination and Development. Their first objective sums up the entire program: "Bring out the full potential of each resident." At the conclusion of the informational brochure explaining S.C.A.D. the attendants note that one of their main problems in further developing the program was the time consumed by doing custodial chores (i.e., mopping, cleaning, folding clothes). S.C.A.D. has come almost to a standstill due to shortage of personnel and lack of funds.

~~Ironically, programs like S.C.A.D. which serve to energize an entire building around a "teaching" concept are unable to get federal monies like H.I.P. Money placed in these programs which involve every resident, would seem to be more wisely used than a program that involves 50 out of 5,000.~~

~~Occupational therapists argue that they are overloaded with students. "The class size rises to 50 in most of our areas for a full day. There is an average of 2 instructors per class.~~

We are only able to teach basketweaving and arts and crafts. The authorities say that it is too dangerous for the students to learn to use machines."

Attendants and professional critics voice concern over the stated contention that programs such as H.I.P. are experimental efforts to show that the profoundly retarded can learn. "This is already shown in Infant Therapy and the occupational training classes."

They add, "H.I.P. is a 'step down' when we prepare them already in one unit then they are sent to another unit to prove that they can learn."

According to Dr. Sternlicht, "since a severely retarded child, because of intellectual limitations, suffers a built-in disadvantage in his daily efforts to come to terms with his immediate environment, this environment must be restructured."

"Not so," answer the critics, "what changes are made in the environment when a child goes from Infant Therapy to a building 5, or a building 7?" What change is made when a student completes building 3 and goes to a building 10, 19, 21?" These are the same ward buildings and environment from which he is supposed to be saved, according to the H.I.P. proposal.

"We are seriously failing," claims a teacher, "because when a child reacts or becomes disturbed in building 78 (H.I.P.) he is sent to building 5 or a low grade building. This is not progress. It is a 'dungeon system' all over again."

~~If Willowbrook is a school, then points 5 in goals and aims as described in the H.I.P. grant portfolio would be false. To attempt to change the entire aspect of the institution from that of a facility for the chronically ill to a dynamic unit for treatment and habitation.~~