

through local, regional and state-wide mechanisms. The professional community must be fully accountable to the parent-consumers community.

● The financial burden for services for the retarded and other persons with special needs shall not be solely the responsibility of the individual family, but shall fall upon the state when it exceeds the basic expenditures for a normal child and the state shall be further responsible to guarantee that the services to be provided meet the needs of the person, regardless of the complexity of the need or the profundity of the handicap.

From the appearances the group of parents who met with lawyers, doctors, professionals and other interested community members were acting out of anger, fear, frustration and a host of other reasons. What has come of those meetings is a unified front that is currently waging a number of law suits, studying and solidifying their positions for future actions.

An additional factor to their move for increased services and control by parents was expressed by Doctor Bronston, "The quality of services for the handicapped is a barometer of the quality of service being received by other segments of the community. Education, medical and health services are declining for the majority of the population. Everyone must see the need for this movement."

And a movement is what it appears to be blossoming into. A second local conference is scheduled for June 24th at Mt. Augustine Retreat House on Campus Road, Staten Island with plans to be formulated for a second, "full scale" conference for next Fall. While the local conference will be to establish increased networks of communication between all groups and to discuss problems that would stand in the way of implementing the six points formulated at the March meeting, the Fall conference will be to "develop a thorough analysis of our position and prospects, and establish a long range (two years minimum) plan for implementing those goals through legislation, litigation and public education and any other necessary means."

One can only speculate what the circumstances of the State Association for Retarded Children's founding were. Similar intents such as those being made by the organizer of the conference have been made in the past. But, as notices for the next meeting on June 24th state: "In the next twelve months or so, much can and will happen with or without our support or direction."