

Useful Place in Society Is Aim For the Retarded

Speakers at a Research Seminar on Mental Retardation stressed that they are no satisfied with just helping retarded children — they want to make them useful to society. That was one of the facts Mrs. E. F. E. Jeffares, principal of the Sunshine School for Retarded Children, 7th Line of Esqueping, passed on to some thirty members of the Mental Retardation Association when she addressed them Thursday, Feb. 17th.

The results of research in some cases surprising, as pointed out by one speaker. A survey was begun in 1939 and involved 26 youngsters — all from orphanages and all with comparable problems. One group of 13 children was taken from orphanages and put in homes with special training. A similar group of matched children were left in orphanages and not specially trained.

Twenty-five years later, the results of the survey showed that all of the first group were self supporting, 11 were married and nine had children. The IQ's of these children were normal. Those in the first group had a maximum IQ of 36 when they started the project. One of the first group even gained a university education and some reached high school.

In the second group, none got beyond third grade, five were in institutions, two died, two were married and one was divorced. Four are partially supporting and 82 per cent of this group is unemployed or

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The clear need for added services was pointed out and speakers noted that training and rehabilitation facilities for the mildly retarded are urgently needed. It was suggested, "we fear down shun areas and build better places for people to live, but we don't train them to keep these new homes from becoming blums again."

The first group cost the state less than \$1,000 per person and the second group cost the state \$24,000 per person.

Dr. R. A. Helling of Windsor, who has made a general survey of the mildly retarded and their problems, reported that these people can contribute to society and can be re-educated to suitable work. He asked if there are opportunities available "or must we forget about him because we have no ready need for him? This is a how yoke to be taken on by our educational system," Dr. Helling said.

Riverdale MP's Wife Speaks to Halton NDPs

The New Democratic Organization in Halton County held its February 15th meeting in the Steelworker's Hall in Milton with Mrs. James Henwick as guest speaker for the evening. Mrs. Henwick was the winner in the recent by-election in Riverdale riding and Mrs. Henwick outlined to those present the interests which had led Mr. Henwick to the New Democratic Party and later to the legislature.

Mrs. Henwick stated that as a lawyer and then as a politically active citizen her husband had increasingly seen the

need for government action to help those in our society who were not benefiting from the present booming economy. Those whom he felt were in special need were the widows, fatherless children, those without the ability to gain a higher education, and the disabled. Although close to 13 of Canada's people lived in a state considered poverty by social scientists, the government had taken little action in order to correct the situation, she claimed.

One of the most urgent needs, Mrs. Henwick stated,

was the necessity for research to determine the causes behind those living in conditions which we could never stand ourselves. One of the immediate ways in which government could help would be tax cuts to those in the low income groups.

In a downgraded economy, Mrs. Henwick said, it was not easy to take action which could relieve conditions of oppression and destruction but when we were enjoying an economic situation which was upgrade all the way, there was no excuse for inaction by those whose office it was to lead the people of Canada.

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