

Our present and long-range goals for the education of handicapped children—the mentally retarded, hearing and speech impaired, deaf, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed, crippled, and other health impaired—include:

Early identification and educational evaluation of every handicapped child, at easily accessible centers throughout the Nation.

Comprehensive diagnosis of every handicapped child followed by suitable school or other educational placement.

A fully trained staff necessary to insure a comprehensive education for every handicapped child.

Support of a nationwide, intensive recruitment program for all types of personnel to work in the field of education of handicapped children.

Encouragement of expanded research and demonstration projects and the dissemination of information on proven methods and techniques.

Coordination at the Federal level, and with State and local, public and private agencies, of all programs which provide educational and related benefits to handicapped children.

I would like to describe our progress in assisting agencies at the State and local levels to provide educational services for meeting the special needs of handicapped children, so that these goals may be obtained. This assistance includes support of programs for research and demonstration, training of professional personnel, application of new educational media, and actual classroom instruction.

The Captioned Films for the Deaf program, established in 1958 and twice amended, has been highly successful. A variety of activities—motion pictures, programmed instructional materials and related instructional and cultural media—have been made available to deaf persons by a nationwide network of depositories and distribution libraries.

Projection of attendance figures indicates that circulation of 16,500 prints of 220 educational film titles and 2,640 prints of 20 recreational film titles plus more than 50,000 filmstrips will reach an estimated total audience of 1,500,000 during the current fiscal year. Films and other visual media presently are being circulated to 1,525 groups certified as eligible to use the materials and services of this program. This figure includes over 600 schools and classes for the deaf, 500 clubs and other civic organizations, 250 religious groups, 55 teacher training centers, and the balance composed of miscellaneous small groups such as employers, parent organizations and the like. In addition, captioned filmstrips are provided on an extended loan basis and are shipped directly to more than 300 schools and classes. The Captioned Films program recently became involved in lending equipment. Research and training activities conducted under this program focus upon programmed instruction for teaching reading to the deaf and field testing of language teaching materials. Studies are underway to identify new instructional devices to decrease communication problems for the deaf and to identify special needs for instructional media in the education of the deaf at the secondary and higher education levels. A potentially significant benefit from these efforts is the identification of new occupational fields which may be opened for the deaf through the use of communication media. In addition to more than 40 special media workshops of 2-3 day duration conducted in schools for the deaf, six-week media institutes at the Universities of Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Nebraska for the second year will provide special training for classroom teachers in the most advantageous use of a multi-media approach. Additional activities carried out on a year-around basis at the Regional Media Centers maintained at the above-named universities include dissemination of training films and manuals to teachers, and area dissemination meeting for parents, teachers and the adult deaf.

Film production activities this year include 60 filmstrips for primary reading, thirty cartridge type loop motion pictures for finger spelling instruction and more than 70 loops for lipreading practice. The following are some examples of Captioned Films for the Deaf Projects currently underway:

Lipreading Program for Children with Impaired Hearing, Illinois School for the Deaf. This project will provide self instructional materials in speech, reading and language for hearing impaired children. Field testing of materials is now being done.

Cued Speech Workshop, Gallaudet College. This project will provide a week of intensive training in the use of Cued Speech, a new system of reinforcing and clarifying lipreading. One hundred teachers will be trained and will be provided with special training films for continuing practice after conclusion of the formal training period.