



LIBRARY BOOKS FILM STRIPS

The children in Buffalo's elementary schools were the recipients of more than 40,000 new library books and a large number of carefully selected educational color sound films under a Title II grant of \$198,000. In accordance with the needs of the children, twice as much money was allocated to the Target Area schools as was given to the other schools. Since the greatest need was shown to be at the elementary level, the greatest share of Federal funds was channeled into the public and non-public elementary schools.

The resulting flood of books and films will accomplish several major objectives. Initially, the book collections in the elementary

schools will be improved in both quality and quantity. The children will have more material for informational and leisure reading — an especially important factor in helping those who are culturally and educationally disadvantaged. Additionally, the increased library resources will improve and supplement existing instructional programs by making available more books in each subject matter area. Finally, it is expected that these library resources will provide a sound base for further improvement of the elementary school library services to our children in all of the city's schools.

Further use was made of funds from the Title II grant in conjunction with a Title III proposal. A special collection of library books adapted to the needs of educable mentally retarded children was provided. This collection was housed in a demonstration center for the in-service training of potential teachers of the mentally retarded in one of Buffalo's Target Area schools.

There is general agreement among authorities in the areas of language arts, reading, and library science that good library facilities, including adequate book collections, are significant factors in bridging the cultural and educational gap in the lives of disadvantaged children. We have taken an important and educationally functional step in that direction.

