

There has been sufficient research done in recent years to indicate that a multisensory approach to teaching these youngsters which was espoused by a Swiss educator more than 130 years ago is about as effective a method of teaching these children as one can employ presently.

The sense-perception method of training these children: employing the visual as well as the auditory systems of input.

Mr. QUIE. Do you have a system of testing at the kindergarten level to determine whether they are going to run into these difficulties or do you wait until they have the learning difficulties before you start?

Mr. WILLENBERG. We have instruments that are sufficiently reliable—

Mr. QUIE. You have instruments, but what is the policy?

Mr. WILLENBERG. To systematically screen the youngsters?

Mr. QUIE. Yes.

Mr. WILLENBERG. There is no policy which systematically screens these youngsters for such disorders.

Mr. QUIE. Are there any in New York, Dr. Swanson?

Mr. SWANSON. I know of none.

Mr. QUIE. Let's take a look at the private schools. Father McManus, do you know of any in Chicago?

Monsignor McMANUS. Certainly not in the private sector. I am not fully acquainted with all of the provisions for exceptional children, handicapped children throughout the suburban area.

Monsignor DONOHUE. I was superintendent of schools in Baltimore before I came to this job in Washington. We have had some experimentation in just the program you are talking about, the Swiss program.

A number of our nuns have been away at different schools where this approach has been taught and they have been using it. We have quite an extensive program in handling alexia and various malfunctions of that type.

There are three or four other dioceses in the country that have been dealing with these areas—Boston, Mass., I know, St. Louis, Mo. I don't know about our schools out on the west coast.

Mr. QUIE. I understand Mr. Brademas has some questions and wants to leave.

Mr. BRADEMAS. I have just a couple. I want to express my appreciation to you, Monsignor Donohue, and all of your colleagues for coming. If it is not inappropriate, Mr. Chairman, I think this is the first time that representatives of the United States Catholic Conference have come before us on education, at least that I can recall since the death of your predecessor, Monsignor Hochwalt.

Monsignor DONOHUE. I appeared before this committee last year. You were not here on that day but this is our second time.

Mr. BRADEMAS. I want to say another word about him because he contributed significantly to the passage of this important legislation. I have just one question on this matter of teachers.

Do I understand generally you are saying that you are faced in the Roman Catholic parochial schools in the United States with a shortage of teachers at the elementary and secondary level?

Monsignor DONOHUE. I think this is a very factual statement.