

Mr. Press wanted to know if I was interested. He said I would be paid for the job that I had been doing all these years.

Mr. SCHEUER. That is the school aide program under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. That is right, yes. But it was with the stipulation in my neighborhood that we could not work at the school that our children attended, so I was sent to PS-1. While at PS-1, Dr. Kurzman realized that with my love of books and my love of children, that I would be better off working as a library aide.

I was very fortunate to have Mrs. Chamberlain, who was attending New York University at the time, for her library certificate, to train me. Every time she went to class, I went to class, also. The only thing, I didn't attend the school.

So I learned all of the skills—

Mr. SCHEUER. In other words, you didn't go to NYU, but she taught you?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. That is correct.

Mr. SCHEUER. And you got what we call on-the-job training, right in the school in the library.

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Yes, I did.

Mr. SCHEUER. You learned by doing.

Mrs. WILLIAMS. I learned by doing, and I am really a top library aide in that field. I also became a storyteller, when it turned out that I was not only good with processing and doing the library work, but also telling stories to the younger children.

And one job led to another. Then my duties were extended. Because of my dealing with children and gaining their confidence, they allowed me to take over the assistant principal's job of working in with the prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first graders in the morning.

Mr. SCHEUER. You worked with the kids?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. That is right. We have a special area in our school where only these children go.

Mr. SCHEUER. Now, you also chat with their mothers?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Yes, I chat with their mothers; not only chat, I talk to a lot of the mothers, because a lot of the mothers have a way of clinging to their children. They have to let them learn to grow, to be independent of them.

Mr. SCHEUER. What are the kinds of things you talk to the mothers about?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Well, I talk to the mothers about giving the children a sense of independence, sometimes over dressing them, sometimes telling the children not to be afraid. I told them never to use this word. They should instill in the children that "school is a home away from home," and this has really worked out. Most parents can kiss their children goodbye and leave them in the morning with no difficulty.

Mr. SCHEUER. How many hours a day do you work?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Four hours.

Mr. SCHEUER. I think the community has a real bargain in your services because there is about another 16 hours a day or 14 hours a day that you are at home, and it seems to me, and you correct me if I am wrong, that you are meeting the mothers in your community when