

you are shopping, when you are engaging in community activities, and in your church activities, and you are, in effect, a 24-hour worker.

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Yes.

Mr. SCHEUER. And an interpreter of the goals of the school system to these mothers.

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Oh, yes, it really is.

Mr. SCHEUER. I would not think that your work and your talking stops after your 4-hour stint at school. Do you also talk to the mothers in your neighborhood?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Yes, I do. As a matter of fact, the children have asked me, "If you are going any place, let's go out the back, because you know too many people." But this is nice. I meet a lot of parents, between them and the school. A lot of parents are afraid to go into the school to talk to the teacher, to find out what problems there are with the children, and some children do have problems, and a lot of children have problems that come into school in the mornings. They can't communicate with the teacher. I am the one they communicate with.

Mr. SCHEUER. And then you chat with their mothers in the neighborhood?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. With their mothers, yes, and also with the teachers. This way we are working hand in hand together. I also take care of lateness, which used to be a chronic condition in the school, and most mornings, now, if I give out two late passes, it is a lot.

Mr. SCHEUER. How many kids?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Over 800.

Mr. SCHEUER. Wow! And before, you say lateness was a problem?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. Oh, there were mornings when you would have as many as 25 to 42 children late.

(The following statement was submitted by Mrs. Williams:)

1. I receive the Kindergarten, first and fifth graders in the morning and send them up to their classrooms. This gives me the chance to meet and know their parents. Also to allay whatever fears either may have. This used to be the Assistant Principal's job.

2. I also take care of lateness. In an enrollment of over 800 children, it is very seldom now that I give out more than 5 late passes any morning. This used to be a real problem; some mornings there would be as many as 46 late passes issued. But being a community person I am able to talk to parents and children. This enables me to correct the situation.

3. I am a library aide. My work there is a labor of love. I process and take care of all books that come into the library. Last, but not least, I try to instill into the children the joy of reading for pleasure. It is a wonderful feeling and experience to see a child go from easy to non-fiction books and really enjoy it.

4. I was also trained under Title III to aid children with remedial reading needs. It's a wonderful joy to be able to help a child learn and understand one of the greatest joys of life.

Mr. SCHEUER. Now, how do you explain your success in improving the promptness with which the kids and their mothers came to school?

Mrs. WILLIAMS. There are some children, you know that it is their fault, and you know whether to pat them on the head, or with some, whether to pat them a little lower down. With some children, you know it is their parents' fault. It is not their fault, and I explained to the parents, it isn't fair to send a child to school late, because they have missed 10 to 15 minutes of the school workday, and the teacher has not got the time to go back over the work they have missed, and in talking to the parents, they themselves realize it for the first time.