

1270 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

of employment for aides was sought. This resulted in the eventual employment of 11 trainees as classroom aides, three as luncheon aides with the assurance that they would be placed in classrooms as soon as funds were secured, and placement of five trainees as aides in day care centers. Other trainees are currently employed as nurses' aides, day maids, and some have returned to work in the fields.

The staff visited the trainees who had not yet been able to find employment in their county school systems to offer advice and encouragement. In one county, no employment was available in the locality in which three trainees lived, but promise of employment was offered in a town 20 miles away. None of the three aides had access to transportation to this town in order to complete the initial interview. After a visit from staff, the trainees were motivated to seek transportation.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE PROGRAM

The aides bubbled with enthusiasm over many aspects of the program. After the practicum experience, some comments were: "No white person ever called me 'Mrs.' before." "They treated me with respect." "I got more money mopping floors in a hospital, but I chose this because I am really helping children." "I never had an opportunity before." "I like this work because I like people."

The aides did have some suggestions for improving the program: 1) conduct a six-week training course, followed by inservice training, and then a refresher course in the fall; 2) the occupational training course should include instruction in all types of office machines used in business; 3) more courses should be given so that an aide could select those he would need most in his specific job assignment; 4) they believed they should be given a title.

In the conference of the project staff and the visiting team the question arose as to the wisdom of attempting to elevate the status of the trainees. A consensus was reached that a delicate balance must be preserved between the self-image of the aides and their newly emerging identification with the middle-class group. It was generally believed that it would be a mistake to raise the trainees' hopes too high; better to help them to adjust individually. The ultimate goal of all working in this field, the group believed, should be improving the condition of migrants as a whole. The future development of each trainee depends largely on each getting and holding a job.

The project director brought out the major weaknesses of the program: 1) the failure to discover trainees more closely and more recently associated with migrant life, 2) the lack of teacher participants in the program, 3) the lack of guaranteed employment for trainees upon successful completion of the program, and 4) inadequate time for preplanning.

The Director of Continuing Education expressed the desire to have a more integrated group of trainees in terms of ethnic origin. Moreover, he believed it would be valuable to conduct the practicum in classes in which the children were disadvantaged rather than largely white and largely middle class. He would like to have had more Negroes on the staff on a full-time basis whom he had been unable to recruit for this project in the limited time for preplanning.

He and others questioned why the program was the fine success it was. One factor was the quality of the trainees. The director stated that they had forced the staff to give them their best. He might have added that the staff were capable of giving a great deal when their best was demanded.

PROFILE OF A PROJECT FOR TRAINING AUXILIARY SCHOOL PERSONNEL AS FAMILY AIDES

(Sponsored by The Delinquency Study and Youth Development Project of
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois)

RATIONALE

Highest in the percentage of families with income less than \$3,000 a year in the state of Illinois, East St. Louis (St. Clair County) presents a striking problem of poverty and all its related deprivation. It has the highest percentage of high school dropouts in the state; it ranks second to Chicago in the number of persons receiving Aid to Dependent Children benefits; and takes the same rank