

**Pennsylvania Law . . .**  
**"guarantees every child**  
**in the Commonwealth the**  
**right to a free public**  
**education."**

**Gov. Shapp**



# Pennsylvania Message

A NEWSPAPER FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF RETARDED CHILDREN

JUNE, 1972



Quarterly Publication

Single Copy 25c

VOL. 8—NO. 2

# Retarded Guaranteed Right to Education



At Childhunt Kick-off—L. to R.—Gary Macuch, Dept. of Pub. Welfare, Mrs. Patricia Clapp, Pres.-P.A.R.C., Edward Goldman, Commissioner of M. R., Ben Berner, Dept. of Pub. Welfare, Joseph Lantzer, Director, Office of Right to Education, Stanley Schneider, Deputy Commissioner of M. R., Thomas K. Gilhool, Atty. for P.A.R.C.

## PARC President Kicks-off CHILDHUNT

Mrs. Harry P. Clapp, President, | citizens and their parents in Penn-

## Court Order Signed . . .

### CHILDHUNT Begun

On Friday, May 5, the three-Judge Federal Panel signed the historic consent agreement between the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which mandates that retarded children MUST be afforded the free, public education originally legislated in 1955.

On Friday, May 12, the Zembo Mosque in Harrisburg was the scene for a meeting of educators, school psychologists and other intermediate unit personnel, as well as PARC chapter representatives, who heard Governor Shapp kick-off the search for those retarded children who have not been able to be afforded an education — The CHILDHUNT.

Also speaking to the approximately thirteen hundred persons gathered there, were Mrs. Harry P. Clapp, President of PARC, John C. Pittenger, Secretary of Education. Edward Goldman, Commis-

The final opinion issued by the Judges, dismissed the objection that the federal court has no jurisdiction and should abstain from the proceedings.

It also provides for hearings in the event the school decides to change the educational status of a mentally retarded child.

Under the order, the public schools can no longer refuse to accept pupils age 5-21 because they are mentally retarded.

In his written opinion, Judge Masterson said, "Today, with the following order, this group of citizens will have new hope in their quest for a life of dignity and self-sufficiency."



## Right to Education Efforts Recognized

The Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children was unanimously voted to receive the Agency Award for 1972, by United Mental Health, Inc., Pittsburgh.

The Award was presented at the Annual Meeting of United Mental Health on June 12 at the William Penn Hotel. Accepting the Award on PARC's behalf was Mrs. Marlene Burda, Public Relations Chairman for PARC.

The Award was in recognition of PARC's efforts in gaining the consent agreement which will open school doors to all mentally retarded children beginning September 1972.

The chief speaker for the occasion was Senator Richard S. Schweiker who has been of great help to PARC in the past and who is supporting a PARC proposal to have "educational advocates" throughout Pennsylvania.

Also speaking was Irving Chase, President of the National Associa-

# Retarded Guaranteed Right to Education



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## PARC President Kicks-off CHILDHUNT

Mrs. Harry P. Clapp, President, Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children, spoke to the Education personnel gathered on May 12, 1972, in Harrisburg for the Childhunt on Right to Education kick-off.

"Honorable Governor Shapp, Secretary Pittenger, Commissioner Goldman, Distinguished Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to be here today with this distinguished gathering of leaders of our Commonwealth and leaders of communities from across the Commonwealth, who have much to do with the des-

citizens and their parents in Pennsylvania.

There is absolutely no secret concerning why we are here today. It is not for the purpose of a celebration, but rather to acknowledge another step in the fulfillment of the rights and privileges of the mentally retarded citizen.

It is a time of rejoicing; but, most especially, it is a time of commitment and renewed efforts to be sure that we know what we must do to assure the right of a free public education to every mentally retarded child under twenty-one years of age . . . and, to be sure that we do it.

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## PARC Awarded LEAA Grant

Mrs. Harry P. Clapp, of Pittsburgh, President of the Pennsylv-

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Also speaking was Irving Chase, President of the National Association for Mental Health.

The recognition of the United Mental Health organization of Pittsburgh is a demonstration of support and endorsement of the effort to identify and appropriately place in school programs, all of the mentally retarded.

mentally retarded children were optional, leaving most mentally retarded children at home sentenced to a life of useless frustration. In the 1950's, due to the effort of former Governor George Leader, Pennsylvania adopted a compulsory program of special education which