

Welfare Workers From County At Annual Meeting

Six staff members of the Moore County Board of Public Welfare attended the 39th annual Public Welfare Institute held in Raleigh last week, according to Mrs. Walter B. Cole, superintendent. Going with Mrs. Cole to the

meeting, which had as its theme "New Emphasis in Public Welfare," were Miss Annie Jones of Cameron; Mrs. C. A. McCallum of Carthage; Mrs. J. H. McCaskey of West End; Miss Alma Chalker of Southern Pines; and Mrs. Grace Bunting of Carthage. The public welfare superintendents challenged the public, including critics of public aid for children born out of wedlock, to help them bring about changes in the law upon which the program is based. In one important piece of action, the superintendents gave approval to a report designed to acquaint the public with the facts concerning aid to dependent children, a report which calls for "greater public understanding of public aid for needy children." The report said that "welfare officials have no choice but to approve ADC (Aid to Dependent

Children) grants if the applicants meet requirements of the law. It is not an optional decision. The grants must be approved if the child is in need and otherwise eligible.

In answer to criticism that public assistance funds are sometimes spent unwisely by mothers of children born out of wedlock, the report pointed out that welfare officials are expressly prohibited by Federal policy from

instructing recipients of grants as to how the public funds they receive should be spent.

Only about seven and one-half per cent of the children born out of wedlock in North Carolina are receiving grants under the ADC program, Mrs. Cole said. She said the small percentage reflects the fact that the illegitimacy problem is not the exclusive problem of social workers, but is also a

public one "and the public must help solve it." She said that in Moore County, 619 children receive ADC funds, 76 of whom were born out of wedlock.

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