

# Handicapped Children Have Special Educational Needs

By George Kahdy

We live in a talking, chattering, magpie world. Children who cannot make themselves understood because of poor speech patterns often have trouble expressing themselves to other people — and this creates another problem — social exclusion. Of the 25,000 children who receive special help in school in speech and hearing programs in North Carolina, most have articulation problems. The other major speech problems are stuttering, language impairments, cerebral palsy, cleft palate, and voice disorders. Many of these youngsters, through efforts of 285 specially allotted therapists, develop acceptable speech and function as other citizens. It is an exciting moment for both therapist and the pupil when the pupil knows that he has used a difficult sound correctly in a sentence, or when he realizes his voice quality is pleasing to others.

**Hearing Handicaps**  
We live in a hearing world. Can you imagine what it would be like to live in a world of silence — never to have heard the song of a bird, the sound of a cricket? There are approximately 6,000 children in North Carolina who appear to be like other children until you try to speak with them. Unless this barrier can be overcome, children with hearing impairments have a difficult time in school. They become frustrated or withdraw into a world of silence.

New school programs for these children have recently developed in North Carolina. Now, youngsters as early as one year of age can attend public school if they have serious hearing loss. Our State Board of Education and our

General Assembly understand that early intervention can prevent additional handicaps in these youngsters. In the first year of special public school efforts for the hearing impaired, 290 pupils received help. Evidence is that this number will grow rapidly.

**The Blind**  
We live in a seeing world. The attitude of pity toward the blind is deeply rooted in our culture. It undoubtedly played an important role in stimulating the development of educational programs for blind children which were established, not with the objective of making the blind child into a self-sufficient adult, but rather with improving his unfortunate condition of living his life in darkness. Today, schools are determined to provide educational programs for the visually handicapped because in most ways the students are like all other students.

In most cases, children with severe visual impairments attend schools in institutions. There, they receive good training with the latest equipment — braille and so forth. However, since most will live and work in a seeing world, is it not better for them to spend some of their time in regular public schools where they can interact with their peers?

In North Carolina, 150 of these youngsters attend regular classes in public schools where they have the supportive services of special instructional materials, and in some school systems, special teachers. It is estimated that there are approximately 2,400 of these students who could benefit in regular public school programs with special help.

**The Hospitalized**  
We live in a walking,

running, constantly moving world. Each year 1,800 children in North Carolina are brought to an abrupt halt by accidents or serious illness which leave them confined in hospitals and at home. Upon return to school, many of these students find it impossible to catch up with the progress made by their classmates. In order to prevent a student's losing sometimes as much as a school year, 60 teachers are presently working with about 400 homebound and hospitalized students until they return to classes.

**The Crippled**  
We live in a world where healthy bodies are prized, but a world that provides for its crippled citizens. Students who have a crippling physical disability are placed in regular classrooms if possible. But if their handicap makes it impossible or inadvisable for them to participate in regular school programs, special classes for them may be provided.

These are children with physical handicaps of a serious long term or permanent nature. They may have muscular or neuromuscular handicaps such as cerebral palsy, skeletal deformities such as no arms or legs, or disabilities which result in chronic lack of strength, such as epilepsy.

In North Carolina, more than 300 physically handicapped are being taught by specially allotted teachers. Over 5,000 more students need this special help. Institutions are partially filling this need, but students could profit greatly from many other necessary benefits in a public school setting. We all can recite success stories of people we know who have overcome their handicaps, but how many more could we name if they had been provided an enriched

education tailored to their needs?

In the late sixties, North Carolina began providing services for emotionally disturbed children in special education programs. The following gives evidence of this need:

1. North Carolina graduated 65,200 high school seniors last year. However, 45 of every 100 who entered the first grade twelve years earlier had dropped from school before graduating.

2. Of those students who enter the eighth grade, 66 out of 100 graduate. Twenty-three of these enter college.

3. Suicides among teenagers during the last ten years have tripled, while the population increased much less.

4. Over 6,000 children are given psychological evaluations each year.

5. There is an alarming increase in drug use.

6. In the last five years, over 15,000 children have been seen in the State's mental health centers for reasons of emotional disturbance.

7. Many others, according to reports, go untouched, often the silent ones, moving through the public schools with little achievement, apathy, and alienation.

We estimate that fewer than one-half of one percent (139 of the estimated 36,000 children) of emotionally disturbed children receive special help within our school systems. Efforts are being made to study how the classroom teacher can individualize her classroom tasks rather than exclude the child. Efforts are also being made to make emotionally disturbed children comfortable in school or in school directed programs. Emphasis is placed on relevance and success.

# Mrs. Nixon Will Fly To London By Burlington Chairman

W. Daniel Renn, President of Renn Enterprises, Ltd. of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, announced today that Mrs. Edith Nixon, Route 1, Box 96 in Aberdeen will fly to London for a four-day holiday in May. They will be among 250 other Renn associates boarding a charter Super Stretch 8 Jet at the Friendship Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina for the trans-Atlantic flight.

Renn further announced that the London Holiday is only the beginning of many such trips, the next planned for November, 1971 to Switzerland.

Renn Enterprises, Ltd., a young five-year-old corporation, has become a leader in the direct sales industry. They are a member of the Direct Selling Association, a regulatory organization that attempts to protect the consumer as well as the right of men to engage in free enterprise.

Renn Enterprises, Ltd. merchandises fire detection devices, fire extinguishers, and other safety products.

New York, N.Y., May 3, 1971 — Indications of a bottoming out and the beginnings of an upward trend in consumer confidence were noted today by Charles F. Myers Jr., chairman of Burlington Industries, Inc., in a speech before the New York Society of Security Analysts.

"There is now finally some evidence, both statistically and from contacts with our major customers, that the consumer is coming back into the market," he said. "Our home furnishings business is picking up, but the retail apparel markets continue to reflect consumer uncertainty as they have since the spring of 1969. Part of this uncertainty, we believe, came from confusion over fashion trends, which now appear to be settling down. Therefore, we think it is just a matter of time before definite improvement will be seen in our apparel fabric sales."

Mr. Myers noted that liquidation of inventories forward of the textile manufacturer had significantly depressed sales in recent quarters, but that the inventory factor is now swinging from a negative to a positive force in textile sales.

"This suggests that textile sales volume should soon improve," he said, "although we do not expect rapid improvement immediately. Many indications point to an overall acceleration of the economy later this year and in 1972. Hence we look forward to marked improvement in almost all of our markets later this year and into fiscal 1972."

Commenting on Burlington's recently announced coordinated promotion of its home furnishings products, Mr. Myers noted that the home products market accounted for about \$450 million of the

Company's 1970 sales of \$1.82 billion, including about \$200 million in carpets and rugs, \$50 million in domestics such as sheets and pillowcases, \$170 million in draperies, drapery fabrics, upholstery and ticking fabrics; and about \$33 million in furniture. He added that Burlington's advertising budget for the fall, 1971, selling season would include some \$7 million for home fashions — the largest single advertising effort ever attempted in this area. Mr. Myers said the Company will concentrate on the Burlington House brand name. In line with this emphasis, he said, "our United and Globe Furniture divisions have been reorganized as Burlington House Furniture; we have established a new Burlington House Carpet division, and renamed the Charm Tred division to Burlington House Area Rugs."

"We have added towels and blankets to our domestics products line. These follow a major program in branded and designer sheets and pillowcases under the Burlington Vera and Burlington House labels."

The Burlington chairman noted that the Company's involvement in knit fabrics was growing.

"A majority of our \$330 million in textured and spun yarn sales volume is sold to the knitting trades," he said. "This has been a growing and profitable business in recent years." Pointing out that about 40 percent of the Company's 1970 sales, or \$720 million, was in finished apparel fabrics, Mr. Myers said, "Burlington's finished knit fabric business, excluding all types of hosiery, was about \$55 million in 1970. We estimate it will grow to \$85 million in the current fiscal year. And based on present capital expenditure commitments and expected

growth in knit usage, we believe our knit fabric sales will be substantially larger in 1972 and subsequent years."

The Burlington chairman stressed, however, that the Company would continue to use a variety of knitting and weaving equipment in its operations.

He added that about five percent of Burlington's total 1970 sales, or \$90 million, was in unfinished (greige) apparel fabrics and about eight percent or \$150 million, in women's, men's, and children's hosiery.

In meeting current market needs and anticipating those in the future, Burlington has invested \$257 million in capital facilities for fiscal 1969 and 1970, Mr. Myers said. He added that capital expenditures for fiscal 1971 are estimated at \$110 to \$120 million. "In connection with our capital program," he said, "we are committed to seeing that our operations meet or exceed all state and federal requirements for pollution control."

"Our plants are modern and our financial position is strong," Mr. Myers said in conclusion. "At April 3, our working capital reached \$505 million, an all-time high. We are convinced that our inventories are in sound condition. I am confident that Burlington is ready to benefit from the stronger business picture that lies ahead."

WASHINGTON — East Pakistanis call a situation whose outcome is in doubt "as uncertain as a tiger." The expression arose because Bengal tigers found in that country usually flee when anyone approaches, but sometimes attack instead, the National Geographic Society says.



FIRST LT. Kathleen Kohler, St. Paul, Minn., is the first member of the Women's Army Corps to become a White House social aide.

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