

Leaders Given Opportunity To Take A Look At Welfare Program

Community leaders representing a cross-section of Yancey County are being given an opportunity to take a first-hand look at the operation of our public welfare program.

This project, which will be getting under way next week, is designed to give a better understanding of the problems of the poor and the administration of public welfare. Similar projects promoted by the Welfare Department in Raleigh are being undertaken in all the hundred counties in the State.

Called "Come Visit With Us", the project derives its name from the fact that those participating will accompany Welfare Department case workers on routine visits to welfare recipients.

The State Department of Public Welfare emphasizes that the purpose of the undertaking is not to "sell" the existing welfare program to the public, but is intended simply to create better understanding of the poverty problem. Welfare workers generally believe that there is widespread misunderstanding regarding the operation of welfare.

In view of the critical situation throughout the country relative to the poor, it is believed that every effort should be made to correct misunderstandings. Clifton Craig, Commissioner of Public Welfare in Raleigh has expressed this as follows:

"At no other time in our history is it more important for community leaders to really understand the problems of the poor — for it is the responsibility of the public to determine the type programs that will be offered in the future and to help alleviate some of the shortcomings of the program in the

28th Year Of School Savings Program

The ringing of school bells this fall not only signals the opening of classrooms throughout the country but heralds the 28th year of the Treasury's School Savings Program.

This activity, which operates in many of our schools, encourages young people to buy U. S. Savings Stamps on a given day each week. When enough stamps have been accumulated, they may be converted into U. S. Savings Bonds. Savings Stamps — available in denominations from 10 cents to \$1.00 — are also sold at post offices.

Last spring, the President announced rate changes for Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares — making them attractive investments. Each youngster who buys enough Savings Stamps to exchange for a Bond will, therefore, get a higher rate of return than ever before. That's nice to know — especially when the young person is building a nest egg for a new bike, clothes, perhaps college.

But there's a lot more to the program than merely realizing a good return on their investment. These youngsters learn the habit of thrift. They learn something about the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. They really share in America.

WAMY Announces Classes

past."

Invitations are now being extended to public officials, representatives of civic clubs, and other community leaders to participate in the undertaking. It is expected that those who accept the opportunity will spend the better part of a morning with a case worker, to be followed by a luncheon at which observations and conclusions will be discussed.

The magnitude of the welfare program, measured both by the number of people receiving assistance and by the financial load borne by the taxpayers, as well as rumblings of dissatisfaction with the program as it exists, make this whole problem one of deep concern to all citizens. The Yancey County Board of Public Welfare, consisting of Dr. Garland Wampler, Yates Bailey and Roy Ray, are confident that the "Come Visit With Us" program should make a valuable contribution toward giving the public a better understanding of the complex problems involved in public welfare.

W.A.M.Y., in cooperation with Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute and Yancey County Schools, announces continuous classes in Adult Basic Education for all adults who have not finished their high school education.

At South Toe Elementary School and Burnsville Elementary School classes are held each Tuesday and Thursday nights beginning at 6:30 p. m.

There is a class for everyone. All classes are free and materials furnished.

Classes are available in English, math, social studies, science and beginning reading and writing.

If you know of someone who cannot read or write, or who has not completed high school, please encourage them to attend also.

For further information contact Shirley Anne McAllister, W.A.M.Y. Office, Burnsville, N. C., phone 682-2610.

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