

March 27, 1958

Form County Council For Retarded Children

A Carroll County Council for Retarded children was organized Monday night at a meeting of the county Parent - Teachers Assn. Council here.

Officers elected are Mrs. Franklin Fuss, president; Mrs. Robert Price, vice president; Mrs. Robert McClester, secretary, and Mrs. Harold Wynn, treasurer. The executive board includes Mrs. Oscar Long and Edward L. Cavitt.

This was another step toward the formation of a class for the instruction of mentally retarded children in this county. Carroll is one of seven counties in the state having no provisions for the education of such children.

There were 47 present at the session held in the home ec room of the new high school building. Twenty-three organizations were represented. Mrs. McClester presided, in the absence of Mrs. Robert Longworth, PTA Council president.

'Tuesday's Child'

Mrs. Price presented Mrs. Harold Timberlake of Toronto, member of Jefferson County Council for Retarded Children and known throughout the state for her interest and work on this subject. She showed the film, "Tuesday's Child."

Mrs. Timberlake pointed out that one mentally retarded child is born every 15 minutes in the United States and that three children out of every 100 born are afflicted. "As yet," she said, "there is no medical cure."

Institutions are not the answer, Mrs. Timberlake stated. She pointed out that they are over-crowded and that each county is allowed to admit only so many per year. This county's quota is two. The speaker also said "private institutions are very expensive."

Needs For Class

To set up a class for the instruction of mentally retarded children, Mrs. Timberlake explained the council must have:

Not less than 8 or more than 12 children with an IQ of 25 to 50 (approximately that of a three-year-old child); application for admission from parents; psychological evaluation and physical exam for each child; room and equipment; a teacher and transportation for pupils.

Commenting on what is taught in the class, Mrs. Timberlake said limited academic work, stressing mostly social development. She pointed out that the object is to teach the child to be happier, use his imagination, develop coordination, teach concentration, to follow orders and develop his speech.

The speaker displayed work from mentally retarded classes and the sheltered workshop in Jefferson County. That county recently had a class approved which includes children afflicted with cerebral palsy.

Organizations and individuals interested in the project of establishing a class for mentally retarded children in this county should contact any one of the council officers. A meeting of the executive committee will be held April 7 at the home of Mrs. Price.