

OREGON STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Child Care, Health and Welfare was held at 10:00 A. M., on Wednesday, March 10, 1943, in Room 504, Spalding Building, Portland.

Those present were: Mrs. Saidie Orr Dunbar, Chairman; Mrs. Arthur H. Goldsmith; Mr. John Whitelaw; Mr. Dan Prosser; Father Jerome Schmitz; Mr. A. G. Johnson; Mrs. Isaac Swett; Mr. Andrew F. Juras; Miss Elsie Arnott; Dr. DeNorval Unthank; Mrs. Norman Davis; Mrs. Frances W. Jonasson; Dr. Vera Brandon; Miss Letha Humphrey; Miss Loa Howard; Miss Neva Dallas; Mrs. C. W. Walls; Mr. Clyde Getz; Miss Gladys Everett; Mr. Stanley Earl; Mrs. E. W. St. Pierre; Mr. William R. Gosser; Mrs. Myrtle Dalziel; and Dr. James Millar. Also present were the following guests: Dr. Lewis Martin, Portland Public Schools; Mrs. A. A. Schumann, Field Director of Agriculture in California; Miss Helen Zimmerman and Mrs. Helen Spliid, Work Projects Administration; Father Melchoir Hildebrand, and the following representatives of the Multnomah County Advisory Committee: Mrs. Nina Duncan, Mrs. Roberta Boylen, Mrs. Ruth Forest, Miss Elizabeth Goddard; and Mrs. Teresa Jaynes.

The Chairman introduced the guests of the Committee; also a new member, Mr. Stanley Earl, incoming Secretary of the C.I.O.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by the Committee.

There was a brief discussion of training of personnel for nursery schools. The Chairman stated that Dr. C. A. Howard, Director of Elementary Education in the normal schools, will have responsibility for development of nursery school training courses in connection with the normal schools throughout the state. It was suggested, therefore, that he be invited to attend meetings of the Committee as a regular member.

The Chairman reported that the three persons invited to participate in discussion of employment of children and youth in agriculture were unable to attend the meeting: Mr. Harry C. Seymour, Chairman, Youth Participation Committee, Mr. W. E. Kimsey, State Labor Commissioner, and Miss Mary Perry, Field Consultant, U. S. Children's Bureau. Mr. Johnson explained that Mr. Seymour has been on a tour of the state with the State Advisory Committee on Agriculture, holding meetings in various parts of the state and for that reason was unable to accept the invitation of the Committee. He stated that, according to present plans, children will be enrolled in agricultural work under the supervision of school authorities. There is to be a preliminary training program in schools in connection with agriculture which will include instructions regarding harvesting of specific crops. Mr. Johnson stated that last year not more than 10% of the school children in Portland were employed, but that this year there will be a great many more. Father Hildebrand, who has been conducting youth work in farm labor at Mount Angel, reported briefly on the situation there. He stated they had no problems of supervision there, as whole families went into the fields. He stated however, that the situation was entirely different from that in the Portland area where large groups of children were taken from the city to some

agriculture center, thereby making supervision necessary. He reported that some farmers in the Mount Angel district are not planting some crops, especially those that require hand labor, because they are afraid they will not have help to harvest such crops.

In further discussion of children and youth in agriculture, reference was made to leadership which Mr. William Baillie, Manager of the U. S. Employment Service, Salem, gave in this problem in the past. It was suggested that he be invited to attend the next regular meeting of the State Committee to discuss his program.

Mrs. A. A. Schumann, Field Director of Agriculture in California, gave a report on children in agriculture in California. She stated that at the beginning of the season they had adults working, but by the end of the season there were a great many children employed. The age limit was 16 and the children were under the supervision of teachers, there being one teacher for every 25 children as well as a field supervisor for the entire group. She stated that they found this plan to be very successful and plan to use it again this year.

In answer to the question as to what plans have been made for medical and health supervision of children to be employed in agriculture, Mr. Johnson stated that the Farm Security Administration is arranging to carry through complete medical supervision in all camps they operate. Question was raised as to why the school health departments could not be used for this service, since it is planned to use teachers as supervisors. Mr. Johnson stated that this probably would be done, but as schools were not very much involved last year this plan had not been considered.

It was suggested by the Chairman that a conference be held with Superintendent Dugdale and other school authorities, and Mr. Harry Seymour, Chairman of the Youth Participation Committee to discuss safeguards which are being established to protect children and youth employed in agriculture. Areas to be included would be Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Columbia Counties. The Chairman stated that this conference should be held as soon as the State Committee on Employment in Agriculture returns and that an invitation should be extended from the State Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Gosser and seconded by Dr. Millar that such an invitation be extended.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Earl spoke briefly on employment of women and youth in the saw mills and lumber camps. He reported that because of the shortage of men normally employed in the lumber industry, it has been necessary to draw upon women, older children, and older men. He stated that there are some boys as young as fourteen years of age working in the mills at the present time. As the age has been lowered, it has been necessary to provide greater supervision and safeguards in all mills for their protection which have been rigidly enforced. Dr. Martin pointed out that there are many more young people employed in violation of the labor laws than most people realize. His department of the Portland Public Schools had heard of individual situations through absences of such children from school. He stated that some of these young people have obtained employment by stating their age to be eighteen or over, and in some instances, parents have helped them to secure employment in this way.

In discussing employment of women and problems relating to employment of women with small children, the question was brought up as to what provisions unions make for employment of mothers who have small children. Mr. Johnson stated that unions do not make any inquiries as to whether or not women interested in employment have children. He suggested that someone from welfare agencies meet with representatives of the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. to discuss such matters. Mrs. Jaynes stated that in her work in the personnel manager's office at the Oregon Shipyards, she made a study of women with small children employed in the shipyards and found that there are 830 mothers of children from the age of one to six years employed there. She pointed out that these women are hired through the unions which will not stand in the way of women who have to support their families. A motion was made by Miss Everett that someone meet with trade union groups to discuss problems concerning children of working mothers. Mrs. Walls pointed out that the Multnomah County Committee is already holding this type of meetings, and that they had planned union interviews for this week. Miss Everett amended her motion to the effect that the Multnomah County Committee continue its contacts with labor unions, with the State Committee giving any help it can. The motion was approved by the Committee.

Dr. Lewis Martin gave a report on education of handicapped children as provided for in House Bill 144. He stated that in the past, handicapped children have been neglected. Those who were taught in their homes received approximately two hours instruction as compared with twenty-seven and one-half hours received by children attending regular school. The present law will make it possible to provide better educational opportunities for handicapped children and is quite broad in its coverage. It includes any child who needs other than a regular school program and who can benefit from such a program. Such children may be transferred from districts not having any special facilities for their care to a neighboring district that has such facilities, with tuition paid by their own school district and state funds. A \$10,000 appropriation is being used to train teachers for education of handicapped children and the State Department of Education contemplates employment of three supervisors who will give help to local teachers.

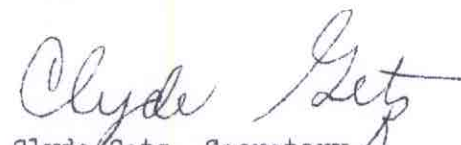
A motion was made by Father Schmitz and seconded by Mr. Whitelaw that a vote of appreciation be given to Dr. Martin for his report and for the good work he has done in bringing about the passage of this bill.

The Chairman reported that Senate Bill 202 had been passed in the Senate substantially as submitted, providing for licensing of persons or organizations caring for one or more children. It was not known, however, what action the house would take on the measure.

As there was not time to discuss child welfare legislation, the Chairman asked that it be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Miss Everett suggested that a letter be written to Dean Milam congratulating her and thanking her for the training program for nursery school teachers developed at Oregon State College. She stated that beginning next term, a training course for training of teachers for nursery schools is being started.

Respectfully submitted,


Clyde Getz, Secretary