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Report of Public Education Committee

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None

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REPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Ann Phillips,
Chairperson**

1. *Problem:* Television stations rarely provide visuals enabling deaf people to understand news or special reports.
Need: A need exists for each TV station and each network to use interpreters and/or mechanical equipment in all newscasts, particularly emergency bulletins, so that deaf people may have an equal opportunity to receive information.
Recommendations: That the Congress on Deafness Rehabilitation contact each network and its affiliates urging the use of interpreters and mechanical equipment. Each CODR delegate, upon returning to his or her home State, should contact TV stations in the State for the same purpose.
2. *Problem:* Communication problems frequently interfere with attempts to provide medical treatment to deaf persons.
Need: A need exists for health-related personnel to have the skills to communicate with deaf people.
Recommendations: That the Congress as a body contact national professional organizations involved in health care (American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, etc.) and recommend that sign language be provided to staffs, that emergency rooms with personnel able to communicate with deaf people be provided, and that volunteers who have skills in communicating with deaf people be used. CODR delegates upon returning home should work with state associations of the deaf in an effort to inform doctors and physicians of the need for communication skills on working with deaf people.

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3. *Problem:* The general public is unaware of the problems and potentials of deaf people.
Need: A need exists to educate the general public to the problems and abilities of deaf people.
Recommendation: That the Congress should request President Nixon to proclaim a "National Deafness Week." Each CODR delegate during that week should participate by giving speeches, developing programs for local organizations, displaying posters, providing informative films, contacting TV stations and offering information to public and private schools. This kind of public relations activity should take place not only during a deafness awareness week but throughout the year.
4. *Problem:* Some States do not provide students who could benefit from particular methods of communication the option of attending day or residential programs.
Need: A need exists for deaf children and their parents to have the option of choosing methodology and day or residential status.
Recommendation: That CODR delegates, upon returning home, contact their State legislatures, State boards of education and local school boards to explain the need and to urge provision of the choices to deaf students and their parents.
5. *Problem:* Although VR is one of the prime sources of service for deaf people, many VR agencies do not have counselors who have skills to communicate with deaf clients or who understand the special needs and capabilities of deaf people.
Need: A need exists for each State VR agency to have counselors with these skills and special knowledge.
Recommendation: That the CODR begin to solve the problem by affirming the Model State Plan and its objectives and by encouraging individual local, State and national associations to do the same.