



# American Federation for Handicapped Sets Plan

By Labor's Daily News Service

WASHINGTON—Proposals for an inter-departmental committee on selective job placement of the handicapped, and for a one-year pilot program in Pennsylvania leading to a nation-wide program of fitting the home-bound handicapped for work, have been put forward by the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped.

AFPH President Paul A. Strachan outlined his home-bound training plan to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Federal Health, Education and Welfare Department and to Rep. Augustine B. Kelley (D-Pa.), who is in line to head a House Labor Subcommittee on the handicapped as he did in the mid '40s.

The 1954 Congress ordered Welfare Secretary Hobby to report in six months on problems of home-bound or bed-bound physically handicapped persons—commonly known as "shut-ins." The report request was a substitute for Kelley's Amendment providing for a grant-in-aid program now.

Mrs. Hobby was ordered to study existing programs for teaching and training such persons to determine if additional programs are needed especially in rural areas. She turned the job over to OVR. OVR asked AFPH and other organizations for suggestions.

Strachan noted in his reply to

OVR that that agency's outline of services to be considered were "okay as far as they go" but not sufficiently specific.

He insisted that "medical treatment, when needed, accompany training of home-bound handicapped, or else—in all too many cases—training will not be of avail, because the individual will not be physically able to undertake and go through with it."

He proposed also that aptitude testing be used for the person being trained and that all efforts in training and treatment be aimed at enabling him to earn his own living in whole or in part.

## Pilot Program

Noting that the full development of the plan would ultimately cover each of the nation's 66,000 school districts, he proposed that for a year or so a pilot program be started in one state to work out the "bug."

Because Pennsylvania is large, has diversified population and "is about equally divided between manufacturing, mining and farming" he suggested that that state be the locale of the pilot program.

To cut estimated \$330 million costs of sending teachers into the homes of all the nation's home-bound, Strachan suggested use of the "audograph" sound recorder and transcriber on which lessons could be recorded by specialists and on which pupils could then transcribe their answers for return and correction.

He declared that a few years ago he found by querying the Postmaster General and congressional committees on post office that a proposal to provide postage-free delivery of audograph lessons for the home-bound would win approval. Strachan said he believes the same situation would be true today.

Home-bound persons could be located, he suggested, by consulting the letter carriers, local unions, farm organizations, medical societies, handicapped associations and so forth.

Strachan's proposal on coordination of selective placement ran like this:

Progress has been slow during the past 12½ years in federal experiments and programs on scien-

tific matching of handicapped persons' abilities and jobs needing such abilities, he said.

But from the trial-and-error "certain facts" developed, he continued.

There now is an Occupational Directory covering 25,339 different jobs, with specifications for them.

"We have shown that approximately 9,000 of these 25,339 jobs can be satisfactorily filled by the variously handicapped—the blind, partially sighted; deaf, hard of hearing; arthritics; amputees; cardiacs; cerebral palsied; diabetics; epileptics; victims of muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis; polio; rheumatism, etc., including congenital defects and deformities.

"Now we must take the essence of what we have learned and use that knowledge," Strachan continued.

## Coordination Urged

He suggested coordinating the:  
1—United States Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security's occupational directory division which developed the directory.

2—United States Civil Service Commission which he credited with developing the "shape up" of the 9,000 jobs the variously handicapped can fill.

3—The VA's Department of Physical Medicine "which has carried on more programs for rehabilitation . . . than any other public agency and has the power and capacity to enlist the support and coordinate the knowledge of private industry. . . ."

4—The Public Health Service which he said "recognized the importance of proper placement of handicapped as requisite to successful rehabilitation" and has the experienced physicians, surgeons and therapists.

The coordination proposed by Strachan would be through a congressional law setting up a joint committee to survey and determine proper selective placement of handicapped.

The committee would have an authorized budget of \$10 million to start with for taking each of the 25,339 jobs and "breaking it down to the potentials of what a handicapped individual might do, in his present state of disability, or might do if properly treated and trained. . . ."

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# Good Record of CIO Is Obvious

By Labor's Daily News Service

When the CIO convention delegates begin hammering out CIO welfare program policies for the new year, they will have behind them a long and brilliant CIO record in the fields of health and safety, social security, housing and related subjects.

They will approach their task with experience—experience developed in the shops and in wage-earners' homes, in union health clinics and welfare funds, in legislative battles in city councils, state legislatures and Congress, and in work with governmental agencies and private organizations.

## Health Benefits

The health field alone provided a tremendous range of activities for CIO unions, councils, committees, and individual members and officers.

CIO helped pioneer for new forms of economics in medical care, to make modern medicine available to the people when needed without charity and without bankruptcy. Its fight here too was one against well-heeled forces led by the American Medical Association and their insurance industry allies.

It was a fight for national health insurance, for federal aid in the training of adequate numbers of doctors and other health personnel, for public aid to hospital construction, for maternal and child health aids, and for federal aid to local public health services.

CIO unionists participated in, and sought to improve, Blue Cross plans while others built union health centers.

They carried on health work in other fields too — work for improved industrial safety and health measures, for vastly expanding and improving the vocational rehabilitation of injured wage earners, for inspection of metal and non-metal mines and quarries and establishment of a safety commission in the United States Labor Department and for improvement of state workmen's compensation laws.

They worked with private organizations like the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, the American College of Surgeons, the National Safety Council, the National Society for Prevention of Blindness and with various governmental agencies too.

But they had to fight against "economy" forces which have whittled health appropriations to save a few millions—while billions were lost through ill-health and injury.

-LABOR'S DAILY, Tuesday, December 7, 1954-

# 'Handicapped' Group Is Given AFL's Support

By Labor's Daily News Service

WASHINGTON — AFL Legislative Committee Member Walter Mason has been named by AFL President George Meany as representative to the legislative conference of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped to take place here Dec. 21.

In Meany's letter accepting the AFPH invitation to participate in the conference on handicapped legislation, the AFL chief noted that "I share your interest in the real need of an adequate physically handicapped program" and pledged AFL's continued cooperation and support.

Meany sent AFPH a copy of the resolution adopted by the AFL seventy-third convention at Los Angeles Sept. 20-27, remarking that copies of it have been sent to the press, to all members of the AFL Executive Council, and to all interested organizations and individuals.

"You will note," said Meany to AFPH President Paul A. Strachan, "that the resolution calls upon all

AFL constituent labor bodies to lend legislative support, and, if possible, to make substantial contributions, financially, to the AFPH."

## Resolution Passed

The AFL convention resolution recalled that "organized labor initiated, and has consistently fought for programs to advance the welfare of all workers, and 34 years ago the American Federation of Labor was chiefly responsible for establishing the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program."

It noted further that AFPH for the past 14 years "has spearheaded all activities beneficial to (physically) handicapped, and has had official endorsement of organized labor, and has many eminent leaders of labor among its national officers."

It reviewed the enactment by the 83d Congress of the bill expanding the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program. AFL commented that the AFPH "with close cooperation from its labor allies, succeeded in amending this bill in major particulars, so that the entire program, roughly, will be expanded to more than three times its present scope."

The AFL convention reaffirmed previous support for AFPH proposed legislation especially measures to establish a Federal Agency for Handicapped, and to provide tax exemptions for handicapped who can't support themselves.