



DEAFOGRAM

NOVEMBER 1978

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COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1978 SIGNED

President Carter signed the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Act of 1978 on November 6, 1978. This new law will provide better services and opportunities for the handicapped persons. The implications of this Act for the hearing-impaired persons are as follows:

- (1) Twelve (12) interpreter training programs will be established in the U. S. for the purpose of training interpreters to meet the communication needs of persons who are deaf.
- (2) Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers are to be established in each state to provide technical assistance to local government as well as public and private non-profit groups. This technical assistance will include the provision of support personnel such as interpreters for the deaf.
- (3) Information and Referral Programs will include a staff of interpreters for deaf people to make sure that these deaf individuals in each state are given the correct vocational rehabilitation information and appropriate referrals to other federal and state programs.
- (4) Expanded authority is given to the Architectural and Transportational Barriers Compliance Board to include communication barriers that face persons with hearing-impairments. Communication barriers include the areas of interpreters and telecommunication devices for access to government supported programs and services.

SERVICES TO TTY-USERS FROM SOUTHWESTERN BELL

Through the encouragement of the Texas Commission for the Deaf, deaf customers who have access to telecommunication devices can now communicate directly with Southwestern Bell.

The telephone company has provided toll-free teletypewriter numbers in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. Deaf customers may type messages to the phone company machines 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Houston teletype number is 800-392-2011. It serves customers in the 713 Area Code.

The San Antonio teletype number is 800-292-7222. It serves customers in the 512, 806, and 915 Area Codes.

The Dallas teletype number is 800-442-7023. It serves customers in the 817 and 214 Area Codes.

Deaf customers may teletype requests for information or service to the appropriate Southwestern Bell machine.

Messages concerning repair service, or asking for telephone numbers will be answered by phone company personnel as soon as received. Messages concerning billing or other business office matters will be passed on to the telephone company business office for prompt handling.

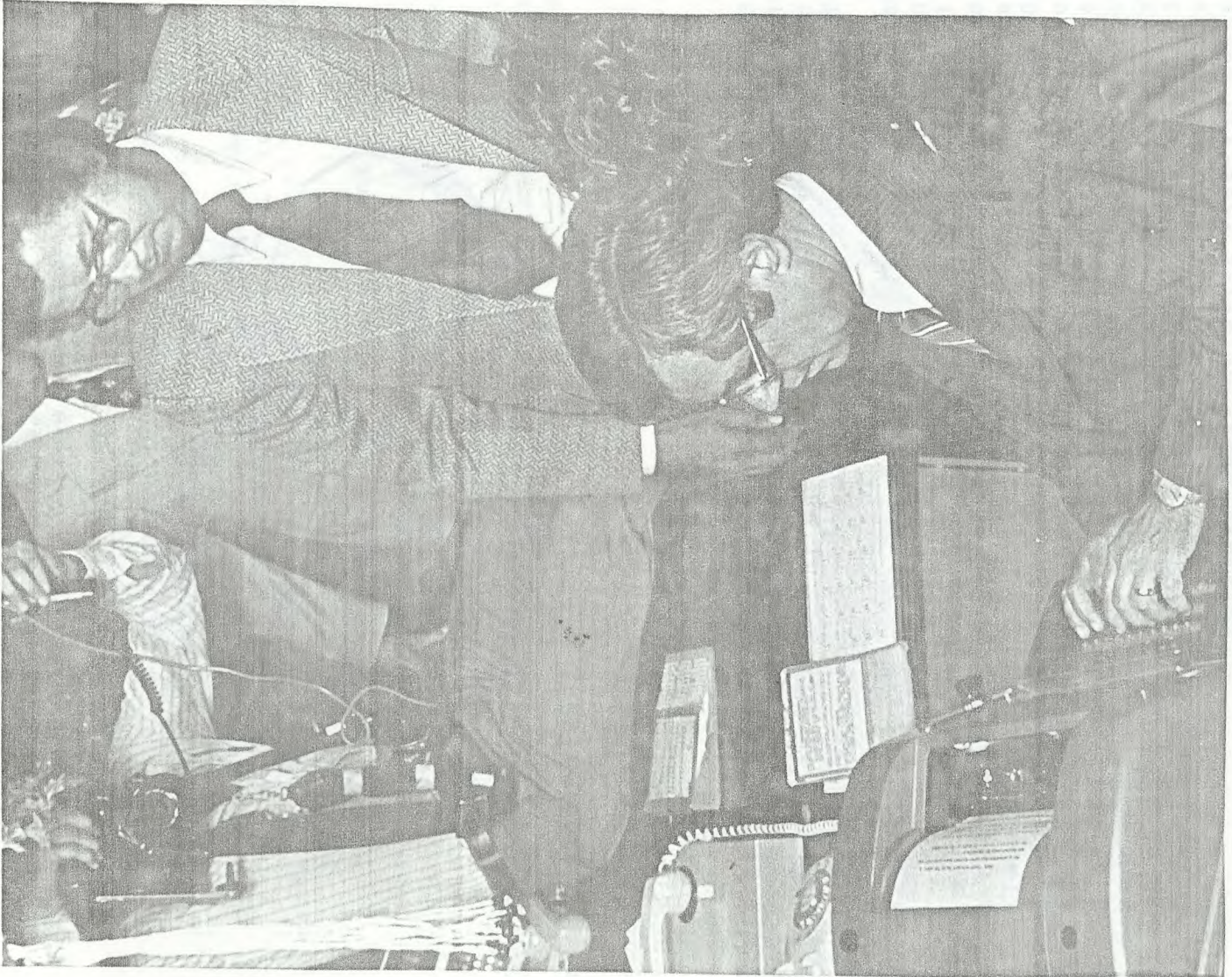
If deaf customers have service from another telephone company, he or she may still teletype the Southwestern Bell machine. Bell employees will provide information if possible, or else pass the message to the telephone company serving the customer.

Meanwhile, Southwestern Bell also has announced that deaf customers who have unlisted teletype numbers will not be required to pay the monthly charge for an unlisted number.

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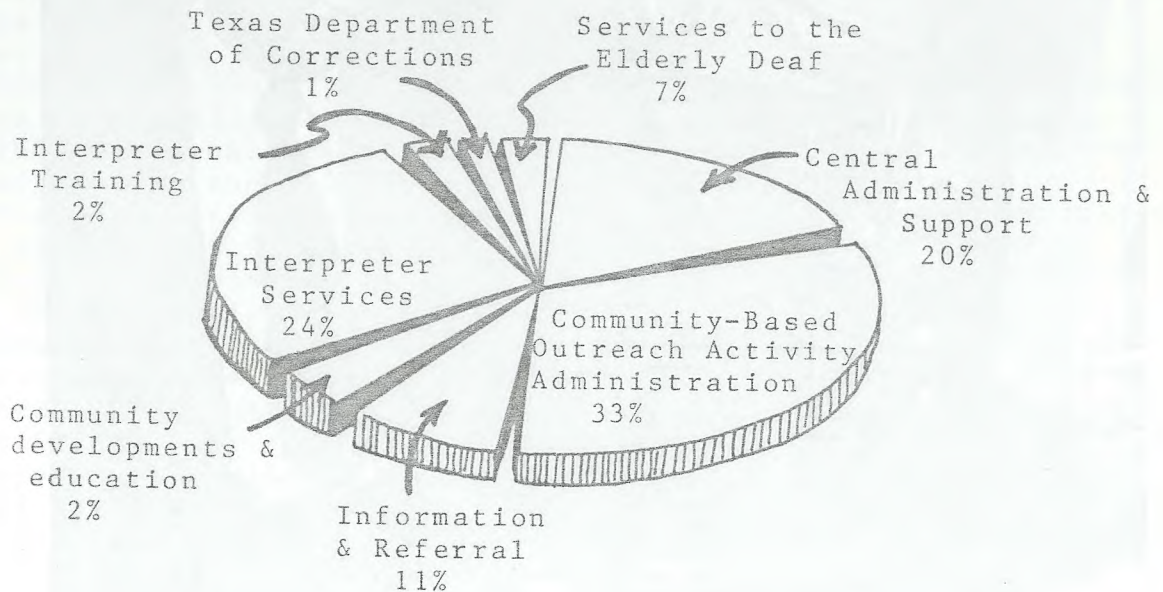
The first TTY conversation between State Attorney General John Hill and National Association for the Deaf President Ralph White inaugurates Southwestern Bell's business office TTY service to the deaf. Texas Association for the Deaf President Larry Evans observes the communication.





BUDGET REQUEST for F. Y. 1980-81

\$ 2,634,000



Since 1971 (and especially in the past year), the services of the Texas Commission for the Deaf have grown rapidly. This is because of (1) a rapid increase in the number of deaf people in Texas, (2) the growth of community-based organizations for the deaf, (3) focus of current legislation on services for the handicapped, and (4) improved cooperation with other state agencies.

In order to keep up with the increased demand for the delivery of needed services, the Commission has submitted a total budget request of 2.634 million dollars for fiscal years 1980-1981. This increase in funds will provide for the continuation of existing program activities (Information and Referral Services, Interpreter Services and Services to the Elderly Deaf) as well as adding newly identified and needed program activities. The new program activities include Community Development and Education, Interpreter Training, Services to the Texas Department of Corrections, and Community-Based Outreach Activity Administration.

As shown in the drawing to the left, the budget of 2.634 million dollars is broken into the following programs:

\$ 527,000	Central Administration and Support
869,000	Community-Based Outreach Activity Administration
290,000	Information and Referral
53,000	Community Developments and Education
632,000	Interpreter Services
53,000	Interpreter Training
26,000	Services to the Texas Department of Corrections
184,000	Services to the Elderly Deaf
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\$2,634,000	Total Budget Request for F.Y. 1980-1981

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INTERPRETERS TO BE IN HEW-SPONSORED MEETINGS

Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., has directed that all HEW-sponsored meetings and conferences be held in facilities "accessible to and usable by the handicapped." Among the list of guidelines for accessibility by handicaps to these meetings as set forth by Califano, is the directive that interpreters be present when deaf participants are in attendance.

Califano's directive recognizes that there may be "occasional circumstances" in which full accessibility cannot be found. But he has instructed HEW officials to make accessibility "a prime consideration" in scheduling all meetings.

Califano states "HEW must and will set an example in eliminating these obstacles, to enable...the deaf...to play an active role in this Department's activities."

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INTERPRETERS IN FEDERAL COURT PROCEEDINGS

On October 30, 1978, President Carter signed a court-related bill creating a right for non-English speaking persons and those with impaired hearing to have interpreters in federal court proceedings. It also provides funding for the legislation.

RID 1979 EVALUATIONS SCHEDULED

The scheduled evaluations of interpreters for the remaining of 1978 and all of 1979 are listed as follows:

December 2 & 3, 1978
January 19 & 20, 1979
March 9 & 10, 1979
April 20 & 21, 1979 (Austin & Houston)
June 8 & 9, 1979
September 14 & 15, 1979
October 12 & 13, 1979 (Austin & Houston)
November 30 & December 1, 1979

All evaluations are currently planned to be held in Austin except those noted for Austin and Houston. The exact location of the evaluation may change depending on those to be evaluated and the evaluation team members schedules. If your certification expires in 1978 or 1979, you should apply now for recertification. Write:

Donald H. England
Temporary Co-Chairperson
9114 Balcones Club Drive
Austin, Texas 78750

The Commission for the Deaf encourages interpreters to become certified as a means of promoting professionalism in this field. Keep in mind that Texas Commission for the Deaf has a fee scale which pays according to the level of certification.

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"INSURANCE RATES WILL GO UP IF DEAF ARE HIRED" - A FALSE STATEMENT!

Employers who state that their insurance rates will go up if they hire deaf persons, or refuse to hire the deaf on that basis, are operating under false assumptions. The Texas State Insurance Commission encourages persons who are deaf to contact either the Texas State Board of Insurance or the Texas Commission for the Deaf when employment excuses like this are given.

ORAL INTERPRETER TRAINING WORKSHOP - DEC. 2 & 3, 1978

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Gulf Coast Council for the Hearing Impaired and the Texas Commission for the Deaf will co-sponsor an Oral Interpreter Training Workshop on December 2 & 3, 1978 at the Houston School for Deaf Children (3636 West Dallas).

Professional staff members from the National Technical Institute and the Alexander Graham Bell Association will instruct the special skills necessary for becoming an oral interpreter. A minimal registration charge of \$10.00 will include lunches for both days.

For more information, contact:

Julius Allen
Gulf Coast Council for the
Hearing Impaired, Inc.
1010 Waugh Drive
Houston, Texas 77019
713-527-9892
713-527-0410 (TTY)

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DHR AND TCD INSTALLS 22 TDD'S IN LOCAL OFFICES

Twenty-two telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD's) have been placed in various local offices around Texas to make community services and information about them more available to the deaf people. These TDD's were made possible through a joint co-operative effort of the Texas Department of Human Resources (DHR) and Texas Commission for the Deaf (TCD).

Thirteen Portaprinters have been assigned to the DHR's regional offices where calls will be answered by special coordinators for the deaf. Plans call for the TDD's to be located in the DHR offices in Amarillo, Lubbock, El Paso, Midland, Wichita Falls, Dallas, Fort Worth, Tyler, Austin, McAllen, San Antonio, Beaumont and Houston. The remaining nine TDD's will be located in the local councils of the deaf community. Telephone numbers for these TDD's in DHR and council offices will be provided in the next issue of the Deafogram.

INTERPRETING SERVICES EXTENDED TO
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Commission for the Deaf has started providing interpreting services to the Texas Department of Corrections for a number of deaf inmates in Huntsville, Texas. At the present time, interpreting services are scheduled two times a month and on a "as needed basis." This service is initially to provide the deaf inmates better opportunities of receiving rehabilitative services as well as appropriate needed services which are available to other inmates in our Texas prison systems.



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