Recommendations in Field Of Adoption Made by Group

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles on the recently released report of the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth. Today's article discusses child welfare.)

By ANN SULLIVAN

If a small child's personality is to develop with the greatest chance for emotional health, he must be cared for in a family home with one mother, either his own or a foster one.

"Oregon should move away from continuing institutional programs for infants and preschool children, except where medical or other health reasons indicate institutional care is needed."

Such is one of a number of conclusions discussed in a section on child welfare in the recently released report of the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth.

Specific Recommendations

The committee also makes specific recommendations in the field of adoption and the need for strengthening adoption laws; for homemaker services; and for day care services for children of working mothers.

Because of the current widespread attention and criticisms of aid to dependent children programs, some of which is deplored by the committee, their recommendations in that field will be reported in a successive article.

On the institutionalization of small children, the report notes that research findings and informed opinion of medical authorities, both in child psychiatry and pediatrics, strongly point to the need for small children to be cared for in family homes if the child's personality is to develop with the greatest chance for his best emotional health.

Support Principle

The U. S. Children's Bureau and literature in the child welfare field strongly support the principle that pre-school children should not be cared for in institutions because they cannot get the same individual care, attention and affection they could from a parent, whether his own or foster.

The committee said that to accomplish the objective of taking these small children from institutions, there must be adequate programs and services to support them, including casework service for families in their own homes, homemaker services, adoption services and the dvelopment of foster home programs.

The report describes its recommended homemaker service as that in which "a mature, specially trained woman, with skills in homemaking and in establishing health relationships with people, is placed by a public or private health or welfare agency in a home where her services are needed to maintain it as a unit."

Such services are designed to provide care on a temporary basis to children and families when the mother is absent from the home for illneses or for other reasons. There is no such service yet established in Oregon, although a number of other states do have it. Plans exist for its establishment in Multnomah county.

Oregon adoption statutes permit indiscriminate placement of children in adoption, the committee found, with the result that adequate safeguards to children, natural parents, adoptive parents and communities are not achieved.

"New legislation is necessary," the report states, pointing out that it can be accomplished only through a cooperative effort of the medical, legal, ecclesiastical and social work professions with the help of broadly representative community groups interested in the welfare of children.

Day-Care Services

Eight pages alone are devoted to the need for increased day-care services for children of working mothers or in other cases where parents for one reason or another are unable to assume the normal parental responsibility for full-time care.

The report notes that one in four working women in Oregon support one or more dependents, most often on a low salary.

The committee recommends in all parts of the state there be an adquate number of places where children may receive acceptable care outside of their own homes while their mothers are working and the need for improved state standards of licensing such.

The need is great for more community-supported day-care programs, the report states, particularly in cities such as Eugene, Salem and Corvallis.

Recommendations in related services include the need to provide more training opportunities for adults working with children and the need for higher salaries to attract and hold more professionally trained people in the field.

More education of the public in the need and better community understanding and effort are also sought.

Grange News

Central Point Grange

Highlights of the regular meeting of Central Point Grange March 18 included informative reports on farm prices, taxes, and marketing methods.

HSC chairman, Mrs. O. T. Wilson, explained the cooking and sewing contest and requested that several of the Grange ladies enter. She also announced the next club meeting was to be held at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon at the home of Mrs. Mads Madsen on Beebe road. Mrs. Cecil Keenan reminded Grangers to bring in the Grange sales slips at the regular meeting on April 1.

Mrs. Gaston Floux exhibited a collection of flower containers. The Grange voted to present a 4-H scholarship, for some 4-H club members to go to 4-H summer school next summer in Corvallis.

An "Irish" program was presented by the Grange lecturer Mrs. Homer Jeffries. Irish songs, games, and jokes were included. The life of St. Patrick was read, and marching was participated in by all present.

Refreshment committee included Mr. and Mrs. William Straub, Mr. and Mrs. John Bohnert, and Mr. and Mrs. Clem Kuk.

Friday, March 25, at 8 p.m. Central Point Grange will hold a "candidates night" for all persons who have filed for offices. The public is invited to become acquainted with candidates. Each Grange lady is asked to furnish a cake.

ARCHBISHOP DIES

New York—(UPI)—Archbishop Vitaly Maximenko of the Eastern U. S. archdiocese of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia died Monday.

Olympia, Wash.—(UPI)—A go-ahead on financing of a Columbia River toll bridge at Biggs Rapids has been given by the State Toll Bridge Authority.

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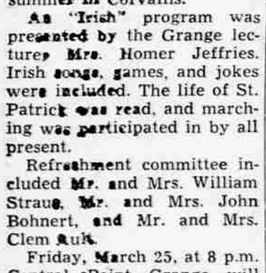

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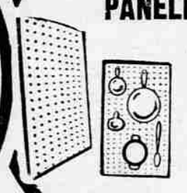

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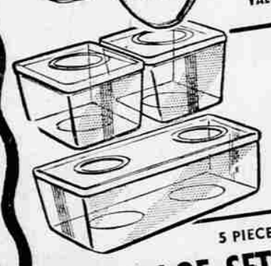

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