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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

The idea for the Congress on Deafness Rehabilitation grew out of a meeting in May, 1973 of the NRA Task Force on Deafness. For several months the Task Force had considered sponsoring a congress on deafness. But the members present that day were reluctant to sponsor "just another get-together." They felt the need for a sharply focused, hard-hitting conference. Then the suggestion was made that a national meeting be called to publicize the Model State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation of Deaf Clients (MSP). It was the right moment for that idea. And so, in less than 9 months from its conception, the Congress on Deafness Rehabilitation came into being in Tucson, Arizona, February 14-15, 1974.

The Congress had a clear mission: Secure implementation of the MSP. The charge to the delegates was printed in the brochure announcing the Congress:

Prior to arriving at the Congress, the Congressional Delegates have the responsibility to review the *Model for a State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation of Deaf Clients* and determine its applicability to their State.

At the Congress, the Congressional Delegates have the responsibility to work with their counterparts from other States to determine the best methods to implement the *State Plan* in their State. This will be accomplished through Committee work and the subsequent resolutions developed by the Committees.

Upon return to their States, Congressional Delegates have the responsibility to work with their organizations to develop the major thrust of the State Plan which is to improve rehabilitation services to deaf persons. This may be accomplished through attendance to priorities and resolutions promulgated at the Congress.

At its opening session the Congress received an exciting greeting from Honorable James R. Burrell, Acting Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration.

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The major addresses set the tone for the deliberations which followed. Dr. Boyce R. Williams, Director of RSA's Office of Deafness and Communicative Disorders, addressed the delegates on the goals of the Congress. Mr. Frederick C. Schreiber, Executive Secretary of the National Association of the Deaf, discussed the present conditions of deaf persons in the United States.

A review of the MSP was provided by Dr. Jerome D. Schein, Director, Deafness Research & Training Center, New York University. Dr. Larry G. Stewart presented data from a survey on a key figure in the MSP — the rehabilitation counselor who specializes in serving deaf clients (RCD).

The Congress committees met, deliberated extensively, and brought forth resolutions. These were acted upon at the last session. All of the approved resolutions are reproduced. Committee reports are included in the Proceedings for most committees, though some did not forward their reports to the editors.

In preparing this record of the Congress on Deafness Rehabilitation the editors have been assisted ably by Dr. Glenn T. Lloyd, Mr. Frank G. Bowe and Ms. Susan Hooker. They have shared with us the desire to present an error-free account. Any omissions or mistakes, however, can only be attributed to the undersigned.

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