

Collier, that the energy crisis will continue and that it requires continued monitoring and examination as to its impact on handicapped people and their programs.

PCMR Continues Monitoring Energy Problems of Retarded

PCMR has been energetically pursuing the effects of the current energy crisis on services to retarded persons and on retarded persons themselves. It mounted a seven-state Survey on energy utilization by institutions and anticipated fuel supply problems. The results revealed a low anxiety about heating fuels but mounting concern about gasoline supplies and rising fuel costs.

Some apprehension was expressed that gas limitations might limit family visits to relatives in institutions and increased gas costs could cause cutbacks in weekend and evening recreation and socialization programs. It could create a real problem this summer in reference to camping and recreation programs.

Of equal concern is the employment and transportation of retarded persons. Many are employed in consumer service industries. They work as clerks, sales personnel and in light assembly and

piecework jobs as well as at hotels and motels. If gas stations and allied employment sites are forced to close, job opportunities could be more limited. If public transportation should be curtailed, those living in group homes may have to resort to car pooling, which in some cases may be difficult for them.

PCMR recently held a meeting to review these problems and the current and potential solutions. Attending were representatives of the voluntary associations together with representatives of the Office of Human Development, Developmental Disabilities Division—Social and Rehabilitation Service, and the Federal Energy Office. Stanley Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Human Development in HEW, described the efforts of his office and that of HEW in negotiations with the Federal Energy Office. The participants endorsed the conclusion of Committee member Robert A.