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## Forum

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## FORUM

Dear Editor:

Art Buchwald, the syndicated columnist, spoke at a meeting I attended the other night, and while he was speaking I was reminded of something he had previously written. It was, "We are using up rhetoric so fast in this country that we will be speechless by 1985. This is a country that thrives on meetings. Three Americans can't have breakfast, lunch or dinner together without booking a speaker to address them. We are holding more conventions, more protest meetings, and more fund-raising events than at any time in our history. People have no solutions to any of the problems we face, so they demand supposed experts to solve their problems for them. Unfortunately, the more complicated our problems become, the more meetings we hold; thus, the fewer experts we will have to go around." When I returned home with this thought in mind, I found yet another invitation to attend a meeting, and that is what has prompted this letter.

Even though I am retired, and my enthusiasm for causes is diminished, I am torn with desire to attend these many meetings, to participate, and to remain one of the gang, but there must be a limit. I can only imagine what today's plethora of meetings must do to one of greater enthusiasm and ambition. Because I am retired, meetings do not interfere with my involvement with the amusements of retirement, but I can only imagine how many rehab case solutions are deferred by the excuse of a meeting to attend. But my point is not to depreciate the worth of meetings to inform, to elevate, to inspire, and otherwise improve one's ability to perform well in his work. Rather, it is to suggest a way in which such can be accomplished while reducing the total number of meetings.

My suggestion is that we hold joint meetings as a substitute for some of the numerous organizational meetings which demand the attendance of many of the same individuals because of their multiple memberships. It is not to be supposed that there could be one massive convention in which all organizations participate, but it is reasonable to think that there are a number of groups that could meet jointly to consider common problems, and set aside time during the same gathering for separate consideration of problems peculiar to each organization. Obviously, convinced oralists would have little in common with rabid manualists, but for example, the PRWAD does hold common ground with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf, the Conference of Executives of American Schools for the Deaf, the National Rehabilitation Association, the National Association of the Deaf, the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education to name but a few.

Therefore, I suggest that this matter of joint meetings be taken under serious consideration. Maybe one great ingathering of all organizations in Madison Square Garden is not such a bad idea after all.

Arthur G. Norris

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE ON THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF

The International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in its final plenary session in Tokyo, August, 1975, voted to establish an International Congress Committee on the Education of the Deaf. The aim was to create a mechanism to insure a more orderly continuity in such congresses and to utilize the experience of countries that had hosted previous congresses to assist in the organization of future meetings. Furthermore, since a number of countries at the Tokyo Congress had expressed interest in hosting a congress in 1980, it was recognized that a representative committee could be helpful in receiving and evaluating proposals that met criteria established by the Congress. The Committee has no official status but it does reflect the intent of the participants in the 1975 Congress. Its decisions and recommendations are not binding on any group or nation.

The specific purposes of the Committee are:

1. To solicit, evaluate and select a host country.
2. To serve in an advisory capacity to the host country selected.
3. To prepare and present at the 1980 Congress a plan for a permanent structure for future International Congresses on Education of the Deaf.
4. To establish the means whereby funding can be obtained for the continuing functioning of the Committee so that it can carry out its purposes.

The following criteria were suggested as guidelines for developing and evaluating proposals:

1. The capacity to provide the necessary translating and interpreting services, including interpretation into manual communication, is present.
2. There are various diagnostic and educational programs for the hearing impaired available in a variety of settings.
3. There are a variety of experts in the appropriate fields available to be called upon for participation in the Congress.
4. The geographical setting should be considered, particularly as it relates to where the preceding Congresses were held and feasibility for travel for those attending.
5. There is evidence of national commitment to hold the Congress.
6. There is evidence of adequate financial support.
7. The host country has political stability.

The members of the Committee are:

Mrs. Catherine M. Abilla  
Inspector of Special Education  
Ministry of Education  
Kenya Society for the Deaf  
Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Richard Brill, Superintendent  
California School for the Deaf  
Riverside, California

Ms. Julia E. Polito Castro, Principal  
Instituto Oral Modelo  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dr. Sergia G. Esguerra  
Chief, Special Education Unit  
Region IV, Department of Education and Culture  
Banawe, Quezon City, Philippines

Dr. Pierre Gorman, Senior Research Fellow  
Faculty of Education  
Monash University  
Clayton, Victoria, Australia

Mrs. Rut Madebrink, Principal  
Manilla School for the Deaf  
Stockholm, Sweden

Mr. Oosima-Isao, Principal  
Nippon Rowa Gakko  
Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Dragoljub Vukotic, President  
World Federation of the Deaf  
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dr. S. Richard Silverman, Director Emeritus  
Central Institute for the Deaf  
St. Louis, Missouri — Chairman

Interested countries should submit 10 copies of proposals before 15 March 1977 to:

Dr. S. Richard Silverman, Chairman  
International Congress Committee  
on the Education of the Deaf  
818 South Euclid Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110, U.S.A.

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## ERRATUM

“Personality and Social Development of Deaf Persons,” by Kathryn P. Meadow, that was published in the January, 1976, issue of JRD, will appear as a chapter in *Psychology of Deafness for Rehabilitation Counselors*, Brian Bolton, (Ed.), Baltimore: University Park Press (in press). This footnote was omitted inadvertently from the article.

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