

## Recreation Director Attends Conference

Americans face a challenge to live all their lives in a fruitful leisure fashion instead of just existing in their expanded life spans. Don Martin, Birmingham director of Recreation reported.

Martin has just returned from Miami Beach, Fla. where he took part in the 46th annual National Recreation Congress sponsored by the American Recreation Society and the National Recreation Association. This year's Congress had as its general theme, "Live All Your Life!" and the numerous sessions were aimed at elaborating on that theme from varied viewpoints.

More than 3,000 volunteer and professional workers in recreation were on hand in Miami Beach for the annual gathering, the only nationwide meeting concerned with all aspects of recreation and leisure.

MAJOR SPEAKERS who addressed the Congress included Florida Governor Farris Bryant; Mrs. Eunice K. Shriver, sister of the late John F. Kennedy, executive vice president of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation; and George P. Donaldson, executive secretary of the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Peanuts.

Another phase of the Congress was a day-in-depth session titled "Learning to Live with Leisure" at which five noted speakers expounded work, religion, education, government and the behavioral sciences. The panelists included R. G. McCreery, director of Solutions to Employment Problems of the National Association of Manufacturers; Rev. Warren W. Ost, of the National Council of Churches; Volt Gilmore, first director of the U.S. Travel Bureau, Department of Commerce; Dr. Lorant Foriz, Medical Director, Anclote Manor, Fla. and Dr. Harry Philippott, vice president, University of Florida.

Gilmore said America's problem of leisure will be multiplied by the fact that our population of 192 million will soar to 320 million in another 35 years.

"The day has come when government bodies at all levels must be involved in programs looking to the future of leisure living," Gilmore said.

"Like it or not, town councils, county commissioners and state legislators are already hip-deep in situations arising from the increasing leisure time of their constituents. They have the responsibility of protecting existing public areas from encroachment and the full use of their regulatory powers to preserve open space, scenic

area and potential recreation land that can be of future value to the growing population."

McCreery declared, "Increased productivity has reduced the time spent providing the necessities of life and created the opportunity for more leisure and the more productivity, the more optimal time. Optional time must be at least partly invested in additional education—necessity before, a necessity now and a necessity in the future.

"Education is the only way of increasing our options, our opportunities and our independence and the only way to remove the dread of losing the present and the fear of attempting the future. Leisure means relaxation and fun but it depends on productivity for its seed and education for its shine."

Reverend Ost said religion is more concerned with the quality of leisure than she is with the amount of free time.

"We ought to be able to play to achieve the fullest value of play and work to achieve the greatest value of work," he explained. "Not just work in order to play more or play in order not to work. Work and play cannot be judged by each other. The trinity of leisure, technology, mobility and prosperity is upon us."

DR. HARRY Philippott said, "An educational system attempts to train young people for living and must also train them for leisure-time experiences. It is also obligated to provide the training for leaders who will make possible wholesome leisure-time activities.

To neglect these responsibilities will mean the education of a generation of misfits and malcontents. With the other social institutions, our schools must provide the experience and training which will help the American people creatively learn to live with leisure and thus add life to their years."

Dr. Foriz told the delegates that leisure is just another part of human behavior as work is. He said also that from the behavioral sciences point of view, "recreation is the important element of regression in the interest of being 'on vacation' from reality but this getting away from it all is certainly not the only important item. Man regresses but does not stop at it. He searches and he attempts to partake in a new growth experience. In recreation he is to become newly created as well as newly creative."

Mrs. Shriver said American recreators are lagging in their efforts to provide recreation programs specifically geared for the mentally retarded. She urged cities to start year-round recreation programs for the retarded; for states to plan statewide programs to fight mental retardation; for state and local recreation officials to plan specific facilities for the retarded that can be financed by the Department of Interior's Outdoor Recreation Commission, for every recreation department to institute scientific tests to measure the physical fitness of the retarded.

"There are six million mentally retarded persons in the country and only one recreation program more than the rest of us," she said.

MARTIN SAID the Congress program covered such diverse subjects as recreation counseling for the homebound, site planning and design, maintenance and operation of special facilities, teen center programs, coordination of private and public facilities.

More than 100 different exhibits spotlighting new trends in recreation were on display and were officially opened by Max Carey, a member of Baseball's Hall of Fame. The ninth annual National Institute in Recreation was held as a prelude to the Congress.

College students also participated in a special two-day program. Other highlights were tours of Miami's outstanding recreation facilities, a special spectacular at Miami's Marine Stadium and the All-Congress banquet.

### Booth Has Supper To Benefit P.T.O.

Over 850 diners attended the annual Booth School P.T.O. Pancake Supper last Thursday night.

The supper, planned by co-chairwomen Mary Brown and Ruth Shipley, is the second of an active series of programs planned at Booth. A parent-teacher tea was held the opening week of the school season.

Funds raised at the supper will be used to support the P.T.O. program at Booth which consists of library book additions, school landscaping, safety signs, and supplementary art additions.

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