

Organizations: National Efforts Related to Deafness

Captioned Films Program for the Deaf

John A. Gough, Director
Captioned Films for the Deaf
U.S. Office of Education
In: *American Annals of the Deaf*, 107(5), (1962), 584.

Captioned Films for the Deaf is a free film service for the use of deaf audiences. The films are comparable to foreign language films in that both have English subtitles imprinted directly on the picture image for the purpose of conveying the dialogue or narration of the sound track to the audience. This service was made possible by the Congress of the United States in September 1958, with the enactment of Public Law 85-905.

Deaf adults are invited to participate in the program by aiding in the selection of films and the writing of captions. Film selection is based upon the recommendation of the groups being served with the main criterion being that the films serve the needs of all the deaf. Most of the captions written today are done by deaf teachers at Gallaudet College and other qualified deaf adults. Thus to a considerable extent the program is not only for, but also by, the deaf.

There are presently about 600 groups registered to receive the films, and the list is continually growing. To serve this rapidly and constantly growing audience, there are approximately 200 prints of 60 different titles available. Additional titles are added from time to time.

These films are available to any group of eight or more deaf persons who file an application with the Captioned Films Office. The films are free, and no group is permitted to charge admission to any exhibition of these films. The only cost to the user is return postage. Any organization wishing to avail itself of this service should write to:

Captioned Films for the Deaf
U.S. Office of Education
Washington, D.C.

Once a group is registered and assigned an account number for the purposes of ordering films, they should write to:

Captioned Films for the Deaf
Indiana School for the Deaf
1200 E. 42nd Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

In addition to the emphasis upon full length features, exploratory steps have been taken toward the development of educational films. Since the education of the deaf is almost entirely visual, it is only logical that an inquiry be made into specialized films for their exclusive use. These films will include all types of subject matter and will eventually include adult education, driver training, counseling, and other areas which may be deemed necessary.