

1950s

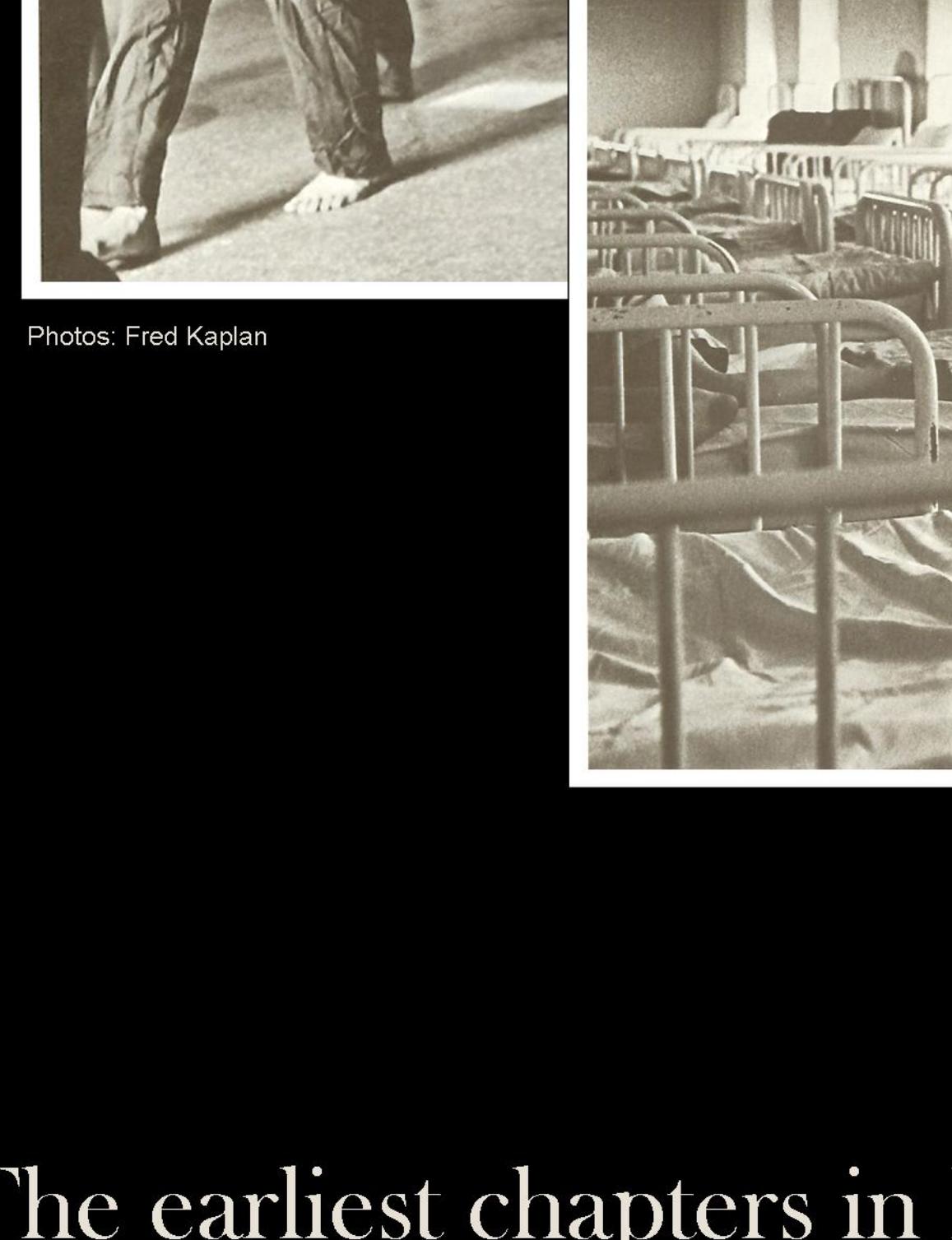
The Dawn of Hope

We came from nothing; now we stand for something.

Everything we did was a battle. Nobody had any money.

It was a struggle from day one.

—Florence Finkel



Photos: Fred Kaplan

The Arc begins because it is needed.
Families are isolated.
People with disabilities are hidden away.

The earliest chapters in Massachusetts begin in the 1940s. Families begin to come together in homes, churches, and other settings to support each other. Without public funding, families develop classrooms and camp opportunities for their children and begin clinical nurseries. In 1950, The Arc U.S. opens with Massachusetts as one of 14 states represented. In 1955, The Massachusetts Association for Retarded Children is formally recognized.

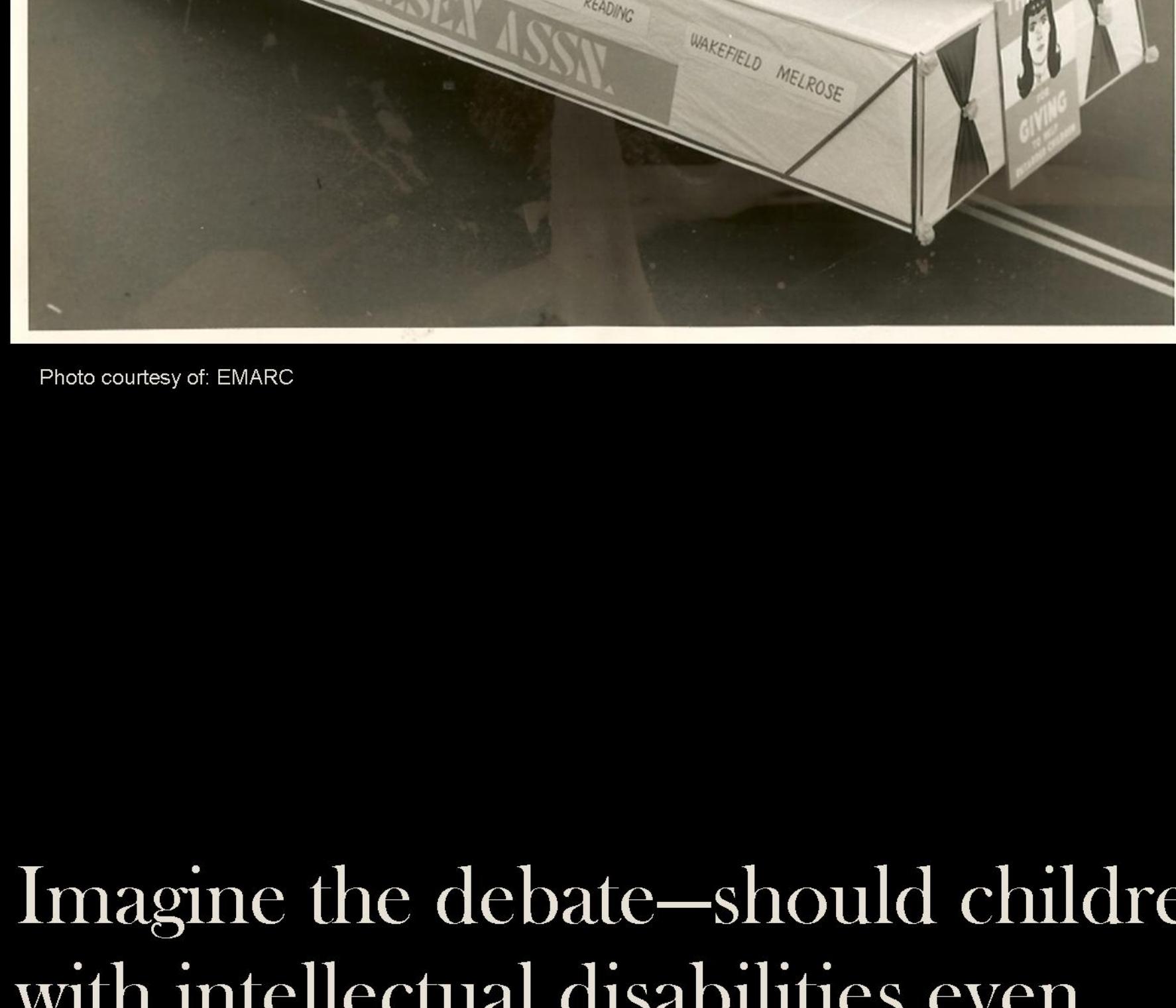
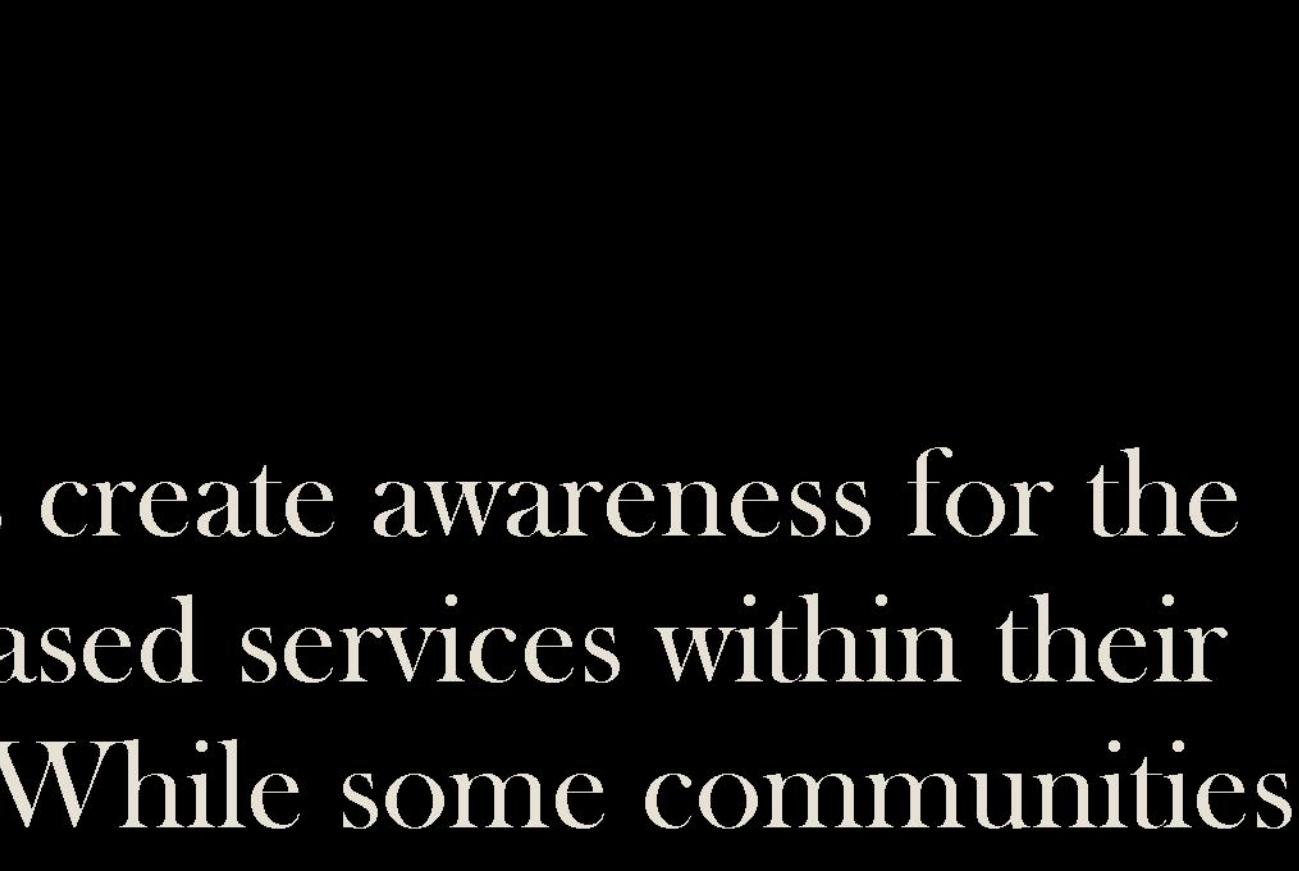


Photo courtesy of EMARC

Local chapters create awareness for the need for increased services within their communities. While some communities provide for the education and training of the "retarded," most individuals with intellectual disability remain unserved.

Imagine the debate—should children with intellectual disabilities even receive an education?



Articles from the December 1958 issue of the NEA Journal (National Education Association)

The Arc
of
Massachusetts

Remembering the past.
Celebrating the present.
Securing the future.