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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Invitation Extended to Michigan Reading Association

On October 23, 1970, Dwight Smith, Language Arts Consultant, and Charles Silas, Compensatory Education Consultant, appeared before the Executive Board and Council of the Michigan Reading Association meeting in Lansing to extend an invitation to MRA members throughout the state to attend the Michigan Department of Education's Third Annual Michigan Conference on Compensatory Education to be held in Grand Rapids on May 10, 11, and 12, 1971. Mr. Silas reminded those present of the heavy Language Arts emphasis found in most compensatory education programs in our state and urged that the heightened concern and considerable expertise of MRA members be mustered at the conference and later to also help improve compensatory education programs in the state. He also solicited the active participation of the membership at the conference in terms of potential resource persons who might offer to make presentations similar to those given at the annual MRA Conference.

The Third Annual Michigan Conference on Compensatory Education will attract from 2,500-3,000 persons including superintendents, principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, board members, and parents. The purposes

of the conference have been outlined as follows:

- a. to provide a forum devoted to the improvement of learning in compensatory education programs in Michigan;
- b. to offer an opportunity for communication between community and school representatives relative to the improvement of learning in such programs;
- c. to publicize programs in which students are demonstrating significant learning gains;
- d. to assist conference participants in gaining a fuller understanding of factors contributing to failure or success in compensatory education programs;
- e. to explore possible avenues of mutual concern and cooperation relative to continued improvement of compensatory education programs in Michigan.

Full particulars on the conference will be available to those interested in January, 1971. Should you wish to receive additional information, please contact Mr. Silas, chairman of the conference, by mail: Michigan Department of Education, P.O. Box 420, Lansing, Michigan 48902, or by phone (517) 373-3666.