

## Symposium On Living Independently With Severe Disability



*Session on the independent living movement: (L to R) Renah Shnaider, Judy Heumann, Adolf Ratzka, Douglas Martin, and Bob Gorski.*

### **Paid Personal Assistants**

Adolf Ratzka of Sweden contrasted the usual agency-run system, which has a tendency to overprotection and limitation of initiative, to the disabled-directed system which he and a few others use. "To the disabled individual," he said, "the way attendant services are organized is at least as important as the number of hours of assistance. . . . If somebody is to be trained, it should be the disabled person. Motivating and directing another person take some psychological and educational skills, which have to be learned."