

Mr. MERCIER. It is a combination of instruction and entertainment.

Mr. HATHAWAY. The workshop is with the music instructors in the individual schools?

Mr. MERCIER. Yes.

Mr. COATS. And in some places they will schedule with the elementary schools, and we have utilized them with the high schools.

Mr. EATON. We have operated MDTA programs in Bangor. We have served 244 persons in 11 different programs during 1965-66. To this date in 1967, we have served 133. The most outstanding program there was not funded as a demonstration program. It is a program for the education of the mentally retarded young adults. This is one of the significant programs in the New England area in this respect, that is this side of Connecticut.

The other program, basic adult education needs no explanation, I guess. The Headstart program has been operated through the United Community Services of Penobscot Valley, which is a Community Action program. We operated it 1 year, and then turned it over to them.

I would like to see this brought over into the Office of Education. We have participated in the Neighborhood Youth Corps and NDEA for some time, and we have maintained a program of distributive education. Although it is not within the purview of this committee, I would like to have you note that we have a junior ROTC program of which Congress has also been a strong support.

We have virtually no direct dealings with the U.S. Office of Education except in the areas of Public Law 874 and Public Law 815. Our major contact for the Federal programs is with the Maine State Department of Education. I would like to state my very strong feeling that the U.S. Office of Education should continue to strengthen the Maine State Department of Education as it is now doing under title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and that then it should deal through this department exclusively.

I also feel that the Federal Government could very well return money under some modified Heller plan, for instance. Then I have strong conviction that the State department and people of Maine could spend this money more wisely, more prudently and with greater impact on the local education scene than can be spent from a distance in Washington.

I will admit that our guidelines are quite flexible, but our programs are categorical and I feel we should move away from that as rapidly as possible.

I think that the innovation can well be handled through the regional laboratories which have been established under title IV. I think that the Research, Education, and Information Center offers to school men—and many of us don't use it sufficiently—but the center offers us an opportunity to study the research and to bring what has been innovation in another place into our community.

I think that technical assistance should be given, again through the State department of education but from the U.S. Office, the curriculum and particularly the evaluation. I hope somebody will speak more particularly to this evaluation business because right now we are able to make very excellent subjective evaluations but there is not