

schools, and this does not mean that we don't have the cooperation of our local community action group, because I think we do. We have formed a liaison committee, four from my staff, four from the community action group. We try to screen everything through this particular committee so that they will know what we are doing and we will know what they are doing. Unfortunately some people in community action groups have the opinion that they can negate or veto the other proposal. Now this is a deterrent.

For example, this year in the submission of my title I proposal it was touch and go down to the very end whether we would get permission. Technically, the Commissioner of Education could still send my project along but this does not look good to me as a superintendent of schools in my own community. Unfortunately, the impasse is resolved.

Now I am a member of the Great Cities Improvement, which includes the 15 largest cities in America. We meet twice a year. We discuss our problems. I also belong to the ASA group. We meet twice a year. At these meetings we find that our problems with the local Community Action groups are the same. This is not saying that they are "baddies," or we are the "goodies," or vice versa. I think there should be great cooperation. I don't think that the right of veto should be held up by a school system which has the right to reject any proposals of the Community Action group, or vice versa.

Well, those are the suggestions I could make.

Mr. GIBBONS. Doctor, we will put your formal statement at the beginning of your testimony this morning. We appreciate what you have said here.

Let me ask you, does the Community Action group agency contract its programs throughout?

Dr. OHRENBERGER. Yes, the Headstart program, part of it. Last year we had about half of it. Let me give you a "for instance." I think this is an excellent example. We were so impressed with what happened in Headstart, we had some preliminary work with prekindergarten. We had two prekindergarten classes of grants I think I received from the Ford Foundation, and we were quite impressed with this. This gave us the model for our Headstart program. Now the preschool and the Headstart, I am sure you are aware that the Headstart program is really a preschool program with social services and medical services added. As a result of the success that we had in Boston this year, starting last September, we had kindergartens in every district and prekindergartens in every district. I am sure there is not another school system in America that has this. Now, we did this out of our own funding. I still think that there may be some small group—this is permissive education, you understand. The law does not give me the power to have people attend. I would say that a Headstart program for next summer is desirable in Boston but certainly not in the proportions that we had any other year.

Now hopefully I will be able to get some funding to provide the social services and the health services for the kids who are in my prekindergarten. This is something we are going to work out. This is something where our liaison committee, four and four with the Community Action, in the school system, can work in concert and hopefully come up with something.