

We know something about how to do it, how to encourage States and local school agencies to do it. But I am very glad it started where it did, in the Office of Economic Opportunity, which is a freewheeling organization, uncluttered by educators.

Perhaps that is an overstatement. And which was able to launch a truly innovative program. I was very glad that it has been started there and still persists there. I think the time will come when States begin to develop State policy in their education systems about early childhood education, when an operation like Headstart will more appropriately be in the Office of Education at the Federal level.

But I don't think this argues for necessarily transferring every educational activity in the Federal Government to our shop. We have plenty of things to worry about just the way it is.

Mr. STEIGER. Operation Follow-Through, as it is being proposed, will come under the Office of Education, will it not?

Mr. HOWE. It will be an OEO program. The money will be appropriated to OEO, but it will be delegated to us for operating purposes.

Mr. STEIGER. One more statement.

The statement was made by Mr. Buchmiller that he supports permitting each State to administer its plan for supplementary services and centers under title III of ESEA. Have you any comments on that kind of a proposal?

Mr. HOWE. Yes, several.

First of all, it seems to me that this is the direction in which we ought to lean at some time, although I think we are leaning in this direction now. I don't think we ought to make formal transfer of title III, but we are beginning to develop practices with relation to particular States which really result in the same thing, simply through administrative relationship.

It seems to me that this is a question that ought to be continually examined. We have an advisory committee for title III made up of distinguished educators and some laymen. They have examined this question and have recommended to us that this change not be made at this time, although within that committee you will find some sympathy for such a change.

It seems to me that this will be a continuing question. It ought to be brought up and looked at realistically, and the ultimate resolution of it will come out of the strengthening of the State departments of education through title V.

One of the effects of title V is going to be to build within all the States the capacity to operate a program like title III, and to operate it with full responsibility.

I think that that does not exist in all States now, although it certainly exists within some of them. So it is a question that needs to be brought up and discussed.

I would like to ask Mr. Estes if he has a further comment on this.

Mr. ESTES. No, I think you have handled it quite well. I will indicate that as we progress in the administration of title III, the differences in opinion as relates to the evaluation of proposals becomes less and less.

That is, as States developed understandings of the program, as they employed staff to handle title III, we found a great deal of concur-