

the Office of Education that approximately one-third of the young people who are now undergoing educational experience in Headstart would be deprived, would you still make the suggestion?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. I would like to ask the Congressman where does he have the information they are deprived. The U.S. Office of Education can enter in a contract for use of such funds.

Mr. MEEDS. Not under present legislation. We have specifically excluded this type of operation.

Mr. CHRISTIAN. Are you talking about changing the law? It could be changed could it not?

Mr. PAGE. Don't we enter in private contract with veteran-approved agencies for private schools?

Mr. MEEDS. You think in your State of Illinois there would be no constitutional problem?

Mr. PAGE. I think there probably would be no greater constitutional problem than we now have with title II. My lawyer tells me, under title II, I am operating illegally by abiding by the regulations of the Federal Government. We are going to try to find out.

Mr. MEEDS. Do you think there would be any more problem than what we have now under the Office of Economic Opportunity?

Mr. PAGE. Not being a lawyer I am not sure I can respond. My personal judgment is that there would be some possible trouble.

Mr. MEEDS. Do you contemplate that some children might be deprived, some children in nonpublic schools might be deprived of this opportunity?

Mr. PAGE. I believe that the mechanics could be set up in such a manner that we could have this articulation that in the State agency where we would not deprive youngsters of the opportunity of participating in this enterprise or in this endeavor. One of the things that I think I failed to bring out, that I did bring out after lunch, it is of concern to me and of many chief State school officers I believe that the Headstart is a good program and I personally believe it has great potential, that there should be enough articulation with the State department of education that we could conduct a followup when these youngsters leave Headstart in the public schools which we do not have now.

I think this is extremely important in this act.

Mr. MEEDS. We are hopeful this can be done. May I finish addressing my question to Mr. Christian?

Could you speak for the State of Florida in this regard?

Mr. CHRISTIAN. As I understand the question, do you think there would be any constitutional prohibition? I don't think there is. I believe we could handle this with private and parochial schools. To my knowledge we have. I think it would work just as well under the U.S. Office of Education as under OEO.

Mr. MEEDS. The gentleman from Kentucky, Mr. Sparks.

Mr. SPARKS. I don't know. If it were to be done by the U.S. Office of Education—we would have no problem if it were done through them. However, if the funds were to come to us and then to the local district we might have some difficulty.

Mr. MEEDS. This is the State constitution?

Mr. SPARKS. Yes. From my understanding the talk has been all along that this should be handled by HEW and it did not mean with