

This is the key. In our own community, our teachers association is completely back of our program of integration and our program for deprived children. Indeed, they have established a committee to provide equal opportunities for all children.

Equal opportunities, of course, means for the deprived child and for the bright child. Our teachers are working in all of these angles. I believe that all funds should be directed through the State education department, that is, educational funds.

I would like to speak to the point that Mr. Ford made, because I would answer this that I believe that Headstart should be directed through the State education department. I acknowledge the fact, as Chairman Perkins requested me last year, that in some places there is not the availability of space under the direction of the public schools for the time, it seems to me, that the public schools should be directed and should have through the Office of Education and the State education department these funds channeled in that manner, and should be allocated in this manner if the public schools are able to accept the programs.

It was mentioned that in Mississippi this was not possible. It would seem to me that a proviso should be inserted, too, that no child would be denied this privilege, but that if the public schools were able to accept it, it should be through the public schools that they are administered.

I would acknowledge that in New York State we probably have one of the strongest of the State education departments. The leadership there is certainly unparalleled in the country. We have strong leadership and it is again leadership rather than a directorship. We are very grateful for that. In White Plains, the relationship between our public schools and the private and parochial schools, and the community action program, is absolutely harmonious.

We have been fortunate in this relationship. We have worked together happily and efficiently for the benefit of all the children of our community. But all communities have not been so fortunate.

Even in White Plains, the machinery for accomplishing such projects as prekindergarten programs and special summer remedial programs could be greatly simplified if applications for funds and administration of those funds were handled by the agency charged with carrying out the program; namely, the public schools.

Such a simplification of procedure would greatly expedite planning and would eliminate a great deal of time-consuming, expensive paperwork. I would indorse the proposal of Dr. Hazlett, that these funds be made available under title I.

Another, and then it seems to me, equally cogent argument for putting Headstart directly under public school administration through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is that such an arrangement would make possible continuous, systematic followthrough during the primary grades of those children who enrolled now in Headstart preschool classes.

As the committee is aware, the major national evaluation of Headstart, published in 1966, disclosed that Headstart youngsters in many communities began losing ground academically after entering regular kindergarten and first grade classes.