

The uncertainty of Teacher Corps funding has resulted in a reluctance on the part of school superintendents to make applications for the use of these people, who may add materially to our educational programs. We urge you to act favorably on this portion of Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1967.

To insure adequate comprehensive educational planning on a State, regional, or local level, adequate funds should be made available to the States. A tremendous additional workload has been forced upon State and local agencies by Public Law 89-10, making it impossible with limited budgets and personnel to even evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Adequate funds are needed for this important function, but those funds should, by all means, be channeled through State departments of education.

We would strongly urge your favorable consideration of the amendments dealing with innovation in vocational education and expanded educational opportunities for handicapped children. Both of the amendments would mean much to all school systems in the country. Again, these funds should go through State departments of education in the several States.

Gentlemen, I would call your attention to one other educational situation which calls for your immediate action. School boards all over the United States are alarmed about an inevitable conflict between school people who, as trained professionals, have done a good job operating Headstart and the Office of Economic Opportunity which seems to fail to understand that readiness is truly a school function. We take issue with recent OEO guidelines for Headstart requiring community action committee's recommendation for employees for Headstart programs before local boards or education may employ. And, Sam, we did not have the same experience with the Headstart office that you did. They told us that the guidelines meant exactly what they said, nothing more, nothing less.

We are alarmed too by the OEO guidelines regarding so-called neoptism in employment of Headstart personnel. In many counties in Appalachia where qualified, certified personnel is limited and where most people in the area are remotely related, there is a good possibility that this rule may make operation of Headstart impossible. We maintain that Headstart can be most effectively and efficiently operated by the U.S. Office of Education and through the various State departments of education, where there is always some degree of understanding of problems, in even the most remote section of each State. School boards are so disturbed by a lack of understanding on the part of OEO that some local boards of education and superintendents may wash their hands of the whole Headstart program. Such action could only hurt children, who do not deserve such a fate.

Again, we welcome you to a full partnership in this important job of educating all our youth. This partnership is a great challenge to public educators all over the 50 States, as it must be to each of you as parents, lawyers, business people, and American citizens. We have no doubt about all members of the partnership accepting the challenge so that the great progressive movement in education shall proceed with dispatch.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much, Mr. Clark.