

nurses as such in our school system. So we have always had that arrangement and that understanding and there has been no conflict of interest there. They work in the schools, through the schools, and with us.

Mr. SCHERLE. Perhaps I did not phrase my question correctly. First of all, do you have kindergarten in Kentucky?

Mr. NOE. In some places, yes; we do, in Louisville. I would say in the majority of the school districts in Kentucky they do not.

Mr. SCHERLE. Your starting age for kindergarten is what?

Mr. NOE. Five.

Mr. SCHERLE. At what age would you recommend that Headstart commence?

Mr. NOE. If we didn't have kindergarten, we would recommend 5, and that is what has happened in Kentucky. Primarily the Headstart programs have been for 5-year-olds. We have to get the kindergarten programs going before we can get back to the nursery school. So if you are asking, then I would move it back a year.

Mr. SCHERLE. This is a good question because I understand from some of the conversation I overheard this morning they are recommending age 3.

Mr. NOE. Yes. I think there have been some studies. The University of Chicago a number of years ago pointed out that if they could get children 3 years old and had a controlled group, that they showed there was a distinct advantage.

Mr. SCHERLE. What would be their capacity of absorbing the knowledge necessary at that young, tender age for, say, exposure to summer classes of 6 weeks in regard to letting them become a little bit more mature, we will say, at age 5 in regard to going out and having more of a continuity in their educational process?

Mr. NOE. You are not talking to an authority on early childhood education, but my answer would be that we think it is all to the good, that there should be followup and there should be continuity just as we see if you are moving into a headstart program for the 4- or 5-year-olds, you suddenly can't cut it off at the first grade.

Mr. SCHERLE. But if you start at 3, this is only a summer course; is it not, Headstart, more or less?

Mr. NOE. Yes, we are starting at 4.

Mr. SCHERLE. Let us say it is recommended at 3, would the tender age of 3 still make them mature enough that it would be advantageous to continue this program and then have them that much farther advanced at 5 or would you gain just as much starting them at the year of 5 in kindergarten? This is my question.

Mr. NOE. As I told you earlier, I can't answer as an expert in early childhood education. My best judgment would be that it would be advantageous.

Mr. SCHERLE. Not just as professional babysitters.

Mr. NOE. That is correct.

Mr. SCHERLE. This is the thing I would like to stay away from.

Mr. NOE. I would, too, and I think all people in education would not want that. If we didn't think there were values in working with 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds, I don't think that we would be particularly interested in promoting a program.