

due to the unique role to which they are relegated by law they are, what might be termed, second-class passengers on a first-class luxury liner.

State departments could be strengthened and their traditional relationships with school districts restored if jurisdiction over supplementary educational centers and services under title III were placed with them in the same general pattern as title I. This is our recommendation.

No one thinks it unusual anymore that every child should attend school at public expense for grades 1 through 12, though around the turn of the century the idea of everyone going to high school was not in complete acceptance. Today there is a trend toward adding early childhood education programs for children aged 3, 4, and 5 and grades 13 and 14, commonly thought of as junior college, to the public school program. We are moving rapidly toward the point where education will be a cradle to the grave affair.

Project Headstart, funded under the Economic Opportunity Act, and administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity, has contributed a great deal to thousands of preschoolchildren and their parents from low-income families. Headstart has also opened the eyes of the general public to the benefits of early childhood education programs, particularly in communities whose school systems do not provide public kindergarten programs.

We view the general goals of early childhood education programs which are presently operated under the Economic Opportunity Act in the same general context as similar programs operated under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In order to avoid duplication of effort by two separate departments of the Federal Government engaged in operating similar programs; to simplify application and administrative procedures and to reduce cost, AASA recommends and strongly urges legislation which would transfer all elements of early childhood education programs which are presently a part of the Economic Opportunity Act to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

We would like to mention at this time another proposal. This concerns the Manpower Development Training Act. Presently this program is sponsored and administered through the Labor Department. As you are well aware the MDTA provides for the training and retraining of people for occupational skills in industry. We would propose that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare be assigned the responsibility of administering this program. There are several reasons why this would be a more desirable department to assume the responsibility of administering the program. Education is now geared to cope with and to satisfy the needs of individuals. This is the type of attention that must be given to the disadvantaged, adult as well as child, if they are to succeed.

We feel that schools, working with community advisory groups have a more direct relationship between potential employer and potential employee while in training. As it now stands, labor working with OEO activities, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and Job Corps, along with apprenticeship programs, has fostered much duplication of effort. Labor sponsored programs are designed, basically, to satisfy