

Now, because of some pilot programs in the State which we were able to get, a couple of them, and that is not much for a large city system, and then utilizing Headstart and now title I for 25 kindergartens and this going out across the State in Knoxville and Nashville and other places, the State legislature this year is considering adding kindergarten and this gets back to a question raised by someone here—they are considering—I don't know whether they are in session now—but kindergarten could very well become a part of the State minimum program which would be just fine.

In other words, for years here is a schoolman who would like to have had kindergarten but when you went to local commissions and State legislatures, the money was not given. This push is good and we should take advantage of it.

We have some administrative details that we ought to clean up and put it in the educational program where it belongs.

Mr. Ford. The statistics Mr. Gibbons was giving you were that 70 percent of the programs by number and 90 percent of the children who are in Headstart are in programs operated by the public school system under community action programs.

What concerns us is what you mean to do when you make your recommendation with respect to the other 10 percent of the children and 30 percent of the programs.

There are two kinds of recommendations that have come to this committee from witnesses. Almost every witness says for some reason that something magical will happen when you transfer the program for funding purposes, and that is all OEO does. They do not administer them directly. The Office of Education supplies guidelines.

If you transfer the entire operation to the Office of Education or HEW, something magical will happen and this great educational program will work better than it has and it will be easier to administer by the public school systems.

The only complaint I have heard voiced thus far by the public school system is there is a double level of administration between them and the Government by having to go through community action but nobody wants to venture across the line and tell us what you have in mind for these other programs.

Mr. Fuller made it quite clear the other day that in his opinion nobody but public school people should be running aid-to-school programs and Headstart programs. If we accept the premise that Headstart is pure and simple education programming and if we do the same with it as we do with all other programs below higher education, only the public school agencies will be able to operate Headstart, because we have restricted every education bill for people below the higher education level to a public school agency.

Other witnesses when we have asked them about this have indicated they would like to deal with the Office of Education but allow the nonpublic agencies to stay in business.

Again, with Mr. Gibbon's example in California, in the Watts area, the two Headstart programs we visited out there were both housed in privately owned buildings, the rent for which was being paid by a group of businessmen in Watts who became concerned over the fact there was not a Headstart program and who started putting up the money on a subscription basis.