

25 percent the Commissioner of Education could contract with that agency to study Washington.

That is the problem.

Mr. MEEDS. I am sorry that I was not here and I am sure you have been asked about this and I hate to take the committee's time to do this for my own benefit, but your position with regard to Headstart and the Office of Education, I am sure you have been over this but would you mind reiterating your position in regard to this matter for me?

Mr. LUMLEY. I will be very happy to reiterate. I am smiling only because of the fact that this created a little flak this morning. I said in answer to the question this morning that the NEA Legislative Commission does not recommend that the Headstart program be transferred immediately to the Office of Education or HEW.

Someone reminded me, I think it was Mr. Ford, that Mr. Fuller had presented a statement from the six national organizations which have these—this is true, these six organizations got together and debated this but they had no time limit.

You see, for a number of reasons, there are certain places right now where Headstart is being operated by the school system and they are doing a tremendously fine job. There are other places where it is being done by private agencies or by private schools. If you transferred at the present time with no change as it is, you would wipe out I think they said 30 percent if you put them under the public school program.

We don't think this is right. Then on the other hand if you would say, if you put through a law that would provide aid for Headstart programs for all children you would open up immediately the issue of aid for private sectarian schools.

Mr. MEEDS. Without going any further then may I compliment you people and the National Education Association on taking more than just a knee-jerk reaction to this question on whether Headstart should be somewhere else, and you and I agree it is primarily an education program, and eventually when it can all be worked out so that we are not cutting out 10 percent of the students and 30 percent of the programs, that this ought to be done.

But in our haste to do this we can't overlook the fact that there are some excellent programs and there are some students right now being reached by Headstart in which vast differences are going to be made in their educational potential that would not have this if we were to make this wholesale transfer.

As far as I can determine we would not only have problems, certainly we would be barred under ESEA right now unless we changed the law. We might have trouble passing the law which would allow this. As a matter of fact, people have been fighting this battle with the Congress for about 30 years now.

I have asked our committee to write to the attorney general of each State and present to them a situation which exists today in which the contracts are made with private agencies under the Office of Economic Opportunity to determine whether this should be done by State educational agencies. I submit there are probably a number of State educational agencies that could not do this either.