

Dr. MATTHEIS. It could in many cases.

Mr. MEEDS. Do you think you would be able to get that off the ground prior to the next year's operation of Headstart?

Dr. MATTHEIS. I think Mr. Congressman this would be a situation relative to the expansion of kindergartens in our various communities where there might be various ways that would have to be implemented initially to take care of the program, temporary facilities, whatever, and then a program of working into construction.

Mr. MEEDS. It is very likely in your State if the proposal were adopted even in your own State, and incidentally not only in your State but in others, there are many children who would not have the value of Headstart programs.

Dr. MATTHEIS. I would not make such an assumption. I think if we were given the opportunity we could do the job.

Mr. MEEDS. We have the problem of legislating for the entire United States on this program and it is the opinion of most of the members of the committee, I think—there would be grave problems in implementing what you have suggested. I am certainly in agreement with your statements and the direction which you are evidently heading when you say you have been and are becoming increasingly an advocate of strong general aid rather than categorical aid for elementary and secondary education and you make a strong plea for such assistance.

I think this is the direction we would all like to go. However, again, may I ask you this: Assume that the Office of Education through the Federal Government were to make funds available to you for general education in the State of Minnesota, do you feel that you could operate presently and serve the students of parochial schools which are now being served under the categorical aid of title I, title II, title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as it is now written?

Dr. MATTHEIS. I think Mr. Congressman, it would depend upon the Federal legislation and the terminology of it as to how strong it was in that area and then whether the State gave us the authority to implement it in recognition of the guidelines of the Federal Government.

I think there would be some opportunity for problem, yes, sir.

Mr. MEEDS. Aside from the problem of passing through the Congress a general aid to education bill, considering the constitutional problems at the Federal level, assuming we could do that, don't you foresee a great number of problems in your State, with your State constitution and in other States with a general aid to education provision, moneys from the Federal Government in serving low-income students or any students in parochial institutions?

Dr. MATTHEIS. Yes, sir.

Mr. MEEDS. So a lot of the parochial students who are now participating in categorical aid under the Federal program might be cut out if you are suggesting—if your suggestions were adopted, isn't that correct?

Dr. MATTHEIS. I would assume this would be likely, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. MEEDS. I was also interested in another one of your statements and I hope I am not doing you an injustice when I paraphrase and at least tell you that the idea I got from your testimony was that you felt