

it operate as effectively as I think it can and will as time goes on, but I certainly agree that the esprit de corps aspect of it is a part of the attraction that can be brought to bear on both the recruitment and the effective operation of this program.

Mr. FORD. One final question. Do you feel that as the Corps has operated up until now there has been any resistance on the part of your school administrators to the teachers coming as part of a Teacher Corps rather than as a part of a clearly identifiable local teacher training program?

In other words, do you detect that it might be easier to have a school principal accept one of your regular Atlanta teachers for a special project than it would be to have perhaps this young lady come down from Virginia and work?

Dr. LETSON. We have detected very little, if any, Mr. Chairman, of that attitude. It is quite possible that it prevails in spots.

I think it will be responsive to the approaches that would normally be made in terms of the quality of the people that are selected and the quality of the job that they do.

I certainly feel that the acceptance of this program has been widespread on the part of our school people because of the growing recognition of the fact that if we are truly going to teach children from a culturally deprived background, we must find ways of doing somewhat differently from the way we have tried to do it in years past.

A part of this is a reduction in pupil-teacher ratio. We must have teachers to work with smaller groups. If we attempt to do this on the basis of our regular ongoing program with local support, then we immediately run into the kinds of questions, "Well, how can I justify a teacher for eight children here and you have a teacher for 30 children here?"

It is possible of resolution and I know we must find ways of doing it but I feel very positively that the programs like the Teacher Corps that provide in terms of the basic structure itself that a school system may not reduce the number of teachers that it employs.

It is a supplementary program. And it is much easier to implement and get the returns from it than would be the case if it were just a part of the overall budgeted operation.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Scherle.

Mr. SCHERLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am sorry I was not in here at the beginning because this is a department in which I am vitally interested. I have areas of misgivings and areas of apprehension and I think from the short period of time that this program has been innovated there have been many pros and cons to this program.

Let me ask you this question: In Atlanta do you now have kindergarten?

Dr. LETSON. We do not statewide but we do in Atlanta and possibly two other cities within the State.

Mr. SCHERLE. Why do you not have kindergarten if you think that Headstart is such a wonderful program?

Dr. LETSON. Of course we have answered that in the city of Atlanta because we do have a publicly supported kindergarten but there is no statewide program of support of the kindergarten program.