

The result of those same kinds of factors have prevented education from being supported as effectively as it should down through the years.

Mr. SCHERLE. How can you actually justify a national Headstart program if the State itself is not taking care of the youngsters within the confines of your own State?

Dr. LETSON. It is a matter of relative values and it is a matter of choice. If a State in its financial program has limited resources or relatively limited resources, then the State makes its decision as to where those resources will purchase the largest educational return. Thus far the State of Georgia has not seen fit to implement a state-wide kindergarten program, but in the city of Atlanta we have been willing and the city has for many years devoted local resources entirely to the operation of this kindergarten, and the Headstart program is not operating during the regular school year, Mr. Scherle, but is a summer program primarily preliminary to coming into the kindergarten in the fall.

Mr. SCHERLE. This is what interests me. This is a 6-week program, is it not?

Dr. LETSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. SCHERLE. Your Headstart program is what age group?

Dr. LETSON. Four and a half to five years old.

Mr. SCHERLE. Would you advocate three?

Dr. LETSON. Yes. It would have to take its place in terms of relative values. If we had the resources; yes.

Mr. SCHERLE. Then how can you justify a 6-week program during the summer months in some of the areas and yet not ask your State legislature to set up a program for a beginning of your elementary schooling and institute a kindergarten?

Dr. LETSON. The educators in the State of Georgia have made such requests but thus far we have not been able to convince the legislature of the desirability in terms of relative values they have not implemented it.

But I would again want to point out the Headstart children in Atlanta do move right into a regular kindergarten program. They are not left high and dry following this Headstart experience.

Mr. SCHERLE. Would you advocate the transfer of Headstart control to your State department of public instruction?

Dr. LETSON. Yes, sir; I would certainly advocate its transfer into the U.S. Office of Education and into the State educational program without any question of a doubt in my mind.

Mr. SCHERLE. I also notice here on page 3 of the testimony the low pupil-teacher ratio. What do you comprehend would be a sizable group to satisfy and justify what you are trying to do in a 6 weeks period of time?

Dr. LETSON. You are talking about Headstart now?

Mr. SCHERLE. Yes.

Dr. LETSON. We have felt that a group of 15 was a reasonable number for Headstart.

Mr. SCHERLE. Do you think that the Government should be allowed to solicit or recruit teachers to work in your given area rather than leaving it to local control?