

activity. They advocate total involvement of the children from the low-income families and total involvement of the parents from the low-income families to the exclusion of all other segments of society. The programs now being approved under OEO guidelines for a year around Headstart program in Martin County do not provide Headstart training for more than 25 percent of the children eligible to participate and do not provide employment for more than 5 percent of the parents.

The remaining 95 percent of the parents are expected to participate in the program on a voluntary basis. The summer Headstart program would provide training for approximately 50 percent of the eligible children in Martin County. It is a hypothetical assumption that this plan is providing child development services for all of the children or employment for all of the parents.

The arbitrary guidelines of the Office of Economic Opportunity are in a constant process of change with considerable indecision in the Office of Economic Opportunity about the application of the guidelines in the local districts. In addition to the guidelines certain special grant conditions are imposed upon the boards of education that are not provided in the guidelines and are not in accordance with the guidelines.

The question should be resolved as to whether Headstart is an educational activity and should be carried out by the boards of education working with community organizations or an antipoverty program and should be carried out by community action organizations or other civic groups.

If the local boards of education are to assume fiscal responsibility it is mandatory that they have fiscal control. It will never work successfully to have two agencies attempting to operate the same program with community action agencies selecting the personnel by which the boards of education are to perform services in accordance with the intents and purposes of Headstart programs.

Boards of education select personnel to perform certain services on the basis of qualifications. Community action attempts to impose on the boards of education the selection of personnel on the basis of poverty without regard to qualifications, presumably because of the fear that boards of education will use nepotism or politics.

At the same time the boards of education are held responsible for the success or failure of the Headstart program. This can only result in the children being deprived of the benefits for which Headstart was originally organized.

The program should either be operated by the board of education or should be completely taken out of the hands of the board of education in eastern Kentucky. If it is the intent to perform services for the parents of the low-income families, then a special training program should be set up for them in which they are paid for so many days of systematic instruction and work experience in connection with the Headstart program.

In this way boards of education could employ competent people who could perform the services in the Headstart program and at the same time provide services for the parents.

While the intents and purposes of Office of Economic Opportunity may be good and the OEO legislation enacted by Congress is valuable