

Mrs. LEVIN. Yes.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Do you have meetings of your group between meetings of the board of directors?

Mrs. LEVIN. Yes, we do.

Mr. STEIGER. May I ask the gentleman to yield for a moment?

Mr. DELLENBACK. Yes, I would be glad to yield.

Mr. STEIGER. In your testimony, Mrs. Levin, you did not touch on what a number of the witness before the committee have asked and have made reference to; namely, whether or not Project Headstart ought to be transferred out of the Office of Economic Opportunity and placed under the U.S. Office of Education.

Has the educational subcommittee for the Citizens Committee given any thought to that or made any recommendations?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. We have not reviewed it and we do not have a policy on it. We do view with some concern the absorption of pre-kindergarten programs by the Board of Education in New York especially since the board of education has not been able to provide kindergarten for every child. In essence we are providing education for 4-year-olds at the expense of the 5-year-olds.

Mrs. LEVIN. And not providing education for the 5-year-olds.

Mrs. BENJAMIN. Moreover, we are concerned with the lack of congruity in New York between prekindergarten programs and the Headstart program, the obvious competition for children and the failure to dovetail services, but we have not prepared a position for you today on our opinion as to whether this program would more properly belong in OEO or the Office of Education.

Mr. DELLENBACK. The sort of presentation you have made here—is this the work of your subcommittee? Is this the official action of the board? Or is this the recommendation of the committee?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. The educational services section has been working on title I intensively for more than a year and this actual testimony is the result of a distillation of the ideas that have come before the educational services section over that period of time.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Do you have staff or is it all volunteer?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. I am the staff member for it.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Are you on a full-time staff?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. Time and a half.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You have on a half-time basis and you work time and a half. This is typical of the situation. You then have one staff person and a committee of five or six or seven who are the ones most deeply involved in this?

Mrs. LEVIN. Actually the membership of the educational services section is larger than just five members. I believe Mrs. Benjamin was referring to board members who serve on that section.

Mr. DELLENBACK. So there are members of the committee who are not on the board?

Mrs. LEVIN. That is right.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Have you found that the school authorities are cooperative with you as you seek to get information?

Mrs. BENJAMIN. We have found that the lay board members of the board of education have been cooperative and, at their prodding, the staff of the board of education has been less resistant than one might have expected.