

Mr. SHRIVER. Fourteen in number?

Mr. ESCH. You suggested that such things as American Medical Association.

Mr. SHRIVER. I just picked them out from a hundred or more.

Mr. ESCH. You are not suggesting these groups categorically and without qualification support all the programs of the war on poverty, are you?

Mr. SHRIVER. No, I am not.

Mr. ESCH. You are suggesting in effect they have supported some programs and they, too, recognize the need for improvement within the programs.

Mr. SHRIVER. No, sir; I am not making that suggestion. I am making the suggestion that the American Bar Association, for example, has not only supported the legal services program but supports the continued existence of OEO as being essential for the legal services program.

I asked them specifically whether they would like to see the legal services program somewhere else in the Government. They have specifically said "No" and they have testified to that effect.

Mr. ESCH. You are suggesting, then, each one of these organizations involved in the program thinks the program should continue?

Mr. SHRIVER. Not only am I suggesting that, that is a fact. I am also adding to that suggestion an additional fact, that most of these organizations except the AMA which has not acted as an organization, not only supported the programs that they are interested in but the entire concept and essential administration of the totality of these programs.

Mr. ESCH. Could we go into one other specific area, Mr. Shriver? It has been suggested that in the Headstart program, which all of us recognize as a worthwhile function, there have been a large number of poor involved as aides.

Do you think that the poor should be hired in this Headstart program as teachers aides because they are poor, or should we work to get in the Headstart program those people who might be selected on the basis of having the interest and the qualification and the aptitude and the training necessary to be most effective for that job?

Mr. SHRIVER. We take as a matter of principle that these people who are employed do have the most aptitude, do have the most qualifications, not only because they are poor but because they live in the community.

One of the traumatic shocks that any child suffers no matter what kind of family he comes from is when he first goes to school. Everybody knows that. If a child is younger than 6 years of age, say 4 or 5, and goes into Headstart, that shock is even greater.

If that child, let us say, is a Spanish-speaking Mexican who goes to an English-speaking classroom for the first time in his life that multiplies the shock. If that child is poor in addition, the shock is even greater.

So, the involvement of the parents of the children of the poor from the neighborhood is not to involve somebody who is not as qualified as a Northwestern College senior or a Harvard Ph. D.