

There are now, for example, a number of universities which have early childhood development courses, which used to have vacancies for applications to go into those courses but which are now swamped with applications to go into early childhood development.

I could give you 10 universities where they don't have the space any longer to take applicants to go to work in this field. Many of these people become interested in the field by being aides in these courses, again affecting the community, not just the child.

The next thing is the parent involvement. I tried to explain to Congressman Esch, who seems to have gone, what we think are some of the significant aspects of parent involvement, especially for poor children.

We estimate there are probably as many as a hundred thousand poor parents, either paid workers or volunteers, in Headstart alone. This not only has the effect which I was trying to describe to Congressman Esch. It also has a terrifically valuable effect on their children in the family and on the home, itself.

We have lots of evidence which indicates that the attitude of the parent about the other children changes, the parents themselves become interested for the first time and willing for the first time to go to adult education classes because they are not so embarrassed any longer about not knowing things.

Second, they want to keep up with their own kids so that they can help their children with homework. So now they go to adult education classes when before they would not go.

Why?

Because for the first time they are actually in a school building. They have been welcomed in a school building from which heretofore they have been excluded.

In addition, in their own home the way they handle the other children in the house has modified substantially because they were involved in this program. That is changing the community item by item, home by home you might say, changing the community for the better, this weakness for the better.

There is a great deal more not only on this one but on other programs which are in community action which leads me to recommend to this committee as I have on previous occasions that they be kept together as community action programs, not fragmented into being health, education, early childhood or whatever else it may be, programs.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Gardner.

Mr. GARDNER. I was quite interested in your statement that you would hope that OEO would not be a permanent organization, that we would be able to phase it out over a period of time.

I remember back in 1960 during the presidential campaign at that time we were told there were 15 million Americans in the poverty area. By 1964 it climbed to approximately 30 million Americans during the 1964 presidential campaign.

Do you have any idea as far as time or in sums of money what it will take to eliminate poverty in America?

Mr. SHRIVER. Yes, I do.

Mr. GARDNER. We seem to be going in reverse. I was just wondering.