

Chairman PERKINS. You are telling the committee that with the program as presently constituted in OEO, you are in a better position to concentrate and zero in on this highly disadvantaged youngster who has never been reached before and to improve immensely his opportunities of going on to college, and you are in a better position than is the Office of Education because they have so many programs that they cannot as expeditiously reach this type of youngster?

Is that a correct summation of your statement?

Mr. FROST. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the mixture of flexibility of OEO and its single-minded purpose on the poor make it preferable to have it in OEO.

Chairman PERKINS. Are you in a better position to reach this so-called poor, disadvantaged youngster than the Office of Education? Are you closer to him?

Mr. FROST. Our community action agencies, I believe, are much closer to him. They are a great help in recruiting. High schools have enormous problems and work under great odds. The CAA's exclusive concern for the poor makes it, I think, more facile to recruit youngsters for this program without going just to high school counselors and asking them who they are. Those people are greatly overworked, as you know.

The CAA can take a variety of sources to recruit youngsters, VISTA people, neighborhood groups, police courts, a vast variety of sources. The CAA knows those people.

Chairman PERKINS. The CAA workers are in close contact with the school superintendents and the various supervisors in these areas all the time, where the Office of Education does not have local representatives in this area.

Am I correct in that?

Mr. FROST. That is true, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Do you have any further supplemental statements you care to make as to why this should be in the Office of Economic Opportunity?

Mr. FROST. No, sir. I have stated three reasons. The purpose of OEO, the flexibility that OEO has, and the particular advantages that community action presents to the program would sum up my reasons for the hope that it stay in OEO.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Quie?

Mr. QUIE. Following this, it is hard for me to believe that the community action agencies of OEO are closer to the young people than are the teachers in the high school. They surely know who the young people are who have dropped out or are about to drop out. Who is closer to these people than the faculty in the high schools?

Mr. FROST. Mr. Quie, I don't know who is closer. I think a neighborhood group may be closer to a youngster who has dropped out of high school than the high school principal or counselor's office would be.

Mr. QUIE. What percentage of the children in the neighborhood or neighborhood group are close to him?

Mr. FROST. I don't know the answer to that. We recruit through athletic groups, through a great variety of indigenous neighborhood groups, whereas the Office of Education, I think, would be just more likely, more likely to recruit through the regular establishment that