

We are supplying the committee with a quite comprehensive set of evaluations of the Neighborhood Youth Corps that do include both in-house and independent evaluations.

Mr. SCHERLE. That will cover this question, too?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir; and will go into such detail, and I mean specific detail, about who they are, and where they are coming from, what is happening to them, where they are going, how many have supportive services now—a much higher number than before—how many of the military rejectees we are picking up—a larger number than before.

It is a detailing.

Mr. SCHERLE. Do you feel the OEO is better qualified to handle this portion of the War on Poverty—talking of the in-school portion, now—than the Office of Education?

Secretary WIRTZ. I speak in complete support of the present program, which does make it part of the OEO, which does provide for its delegation to the Department of Labor. And that is the basis on which it is presently done.

Your question is in terms of a comparison with HEW's operation of it. I would speak, rather, not to the Department of Labor as against the Department of HEW, but to the desirability of keeping all of these programs for the time being tied together by somebody whose responsibility is poverty and the elimination of poverty as such.

I have said in my statement, and would want to reaffirm it, that you have got to answer the question of why the established agencies, including the Department of Labor, did not do these things before. We should never have let it be necessary that this be done.

There are institutional forces at work which explain that.

I don't think that the 3-year program so far has in any way dissipated those forces, so I am strongly in favor of keeping a central responsibility in the Office of Economic Opportunity, delegating the operating program to whatever extent appears appropriate, but not breaking it up.

Mr. SCHERLE. Doesn't it seem reasonable, though, that programs dealing in the field of education should be the responsibility of those that are trained in this field?

Secretary WIRTZ. I couldn't argue with that general proposition, and I would think of it a little in the terms of the parable of the elephant.

We are talking about the same individual, but just as the three seers touched different parts of the elephant and reported it differently, I suppose when I look at an individual, I say, "He is unemployed," and when Secretary Gardner looks at the individual, he says, "He is uneducated." When Mr. Shriver looks at the individual, the same individual, he says, "He is poor." And then someone else, in the Equal Opportunities Commission or somewhere, will look at the individual and say, "He is a Negro."

My answer to your question is that in the long run there can only be one answer to that, and that is the education ought to be done through the established agencies.

It isn't just the HEW. It is the State boards of education.

I think we have a time question, Mr. Scherle, and my point would be that as of now it is still very important to keep that pressure on the elimination of the situation of poverty.