

In every one of these programs there is an increasing attempt to get the Community Action agencies and the employment services working together.

You have before you, too, you have had before you, too, another illustration of the same thing, the President's proposal for amendment to the Vocational Education Act this year include a provision for the development of, through the vocational agencies, programs like these work training programs in the neighborhood youth corps, with a specific provision that there be a working relationship develop between the vocational education and the employment service people.

We are trying very hard to make these programs an agency for developing coordination at the local level as well as national level.

Mr. QUIE. You object to having written into the legislation affecting the local office of employment security or MDTA, the requirement that money be allocated through local community action agencies so that you would have to have the same responsibility to work with them as you presently do with OEO programs?

Secretary WIRTZ. You ask, would I object. I would counsel very strongly against it. Because, among other things, that would put this whole thing in the cast of an antipoverty program. Now a good deal of the employment service program and a great deal of the Manpower Development and Training Program is directed at other needs than poverty needs.

We have talked about those here. To be illustrative, there is a shortage of nurses in this country right now. There are a number of Manpower Development and Training Act programs which we are working out with HEW to meet that problem.

It has nothing to do with poverty. You would also run into some exceedingly serious pragmatic practical problems in connection with employment service. You would have a political revolution on your hands if you tried that in connection with employment service. I would counsel very strongly against it.

Mr. QUIE. Even though it has nothing to do with poverty, the community action agencies have this possible aspect that it brings about an involvement in the plan of the people who have to be helped. These happen to be poverty individuals, but the concept of a greater role played by the people to be helped seems to me a wise one and may be the key to the poverty program. It is one that I want to make certain remains intact.

It is one that we call involvement of the poor.

Secretary WIRTZ. I agree with the fact of involvement completely. However, in effect, focus all these programs or to bring about the further development of all of these programs in terms of meeting poverty, which we just agreed a few minutes ago ought to be on its way out, seems to me to be an organizational mistake.

Mr. QUIE. I question whether Community Action agencies ought to go out with poverty.

Secretary WIRTZ. The concept surely should not.

Mr. QUIE. I should expect that they ought to continue.

Secretary WIRTZ. There is another point of relevance. If the point is the broad one you now make about the participation, the involvement of as many people as possible through, among other things, some Government agency which takes them into account, small "g" Government agency, I am a hundred percent for that.