

give support to a comprehensive range of services that can benefit young children and their families.

OEO is particularly suited for this trailblazing role because of its mandate for innovation and experimentation with new ideas and new combinations of resources to serve the poor. The Nation will be best served by maintaining and developing Headstart under the aegis of OEO.

If there has been one generally recognized problem rising out of the Headstart experience, it has been that some of the gains made by poor children as a result of this enterprise are lost once the children are absorbed into the school systems of disadvantaged communities.

In a further step to assure that the gains many young children make under Headstart are not reduced when formal schooling begins, \$120 million of the Headstart budget for next year will be used for the new Followthrough program.

This program, to be delegated to HEW by OEO and to be operated by the Office of Education, will focus on a wide range of remedial services to disadvantaged children in places where there is a high proportion of children who have been through the preschool programs of Headstart and title I.

The means that have made Headstart successful—specialized and remedial teachers and aids, individualized attention, medical and dental services—will be utilized in the early elementary grades to insure that the momentum gained in preschool programs is maintained.

Parents of educationally disadvantaged children will be involved in their children's early elementary education, for an informed and co-operating home can greatly facilitate a child's development. Initially, Followthrough will concentrate on programs in kindergarten and first grade; ultimately, Followthrough will extend through the early grades.

The \$120 million would enable 190,000 children to participate in the program when it is fully operational.

These projects will be jointly reviewed and approved by both OEO and HEW in the initial phase; thereafter, we will approve the projects in accordance with mutually agreed upon guidelines.

Both of these programs—Headstart and Followthrough—are complemented by activities under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I has strengthened school programs for deprived children, some of whom have benefited from Headstart.

The Office of Education, of course, is intimately involved with the antipoverty effort. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was formulated in the conviction that educational deprivation is ineluctably allied with economic deprivation and that concerted activities of offset that deprivation are an essential part of antipoverty activity.

Title I has encouraged school systems to consider support of preschool programs to augment Headstart. The Office of Education and OEO have developed procedures for program coordination at the local level between education agencies and community action agencies.

These procedures prevent duplication of projects and assure cooperative support of antipoverty activities for preschool children.