

CHILD AND PARENTS CENTERS

A few months ago, the President in his message on children and youth stated that there was a critical need for services to very young disadvantaged children.

OEO will have the responsibility for organizing centers for children and parents to bring together existing services and offer new ones for this group. HEW has a variety of resources that can be brought to bear in this venture. We are already engaged in work with OEO in this new undertaking.

As this review of activities indicates, the Department's participation with OEO in the war on poverty is extensive, diverse, and valuable.

In closing, I want to reiterate our strong support of the work of the Office of Economic Opportunity. We look forward to further joint undertakings to achieve our common objectives of eliminating poverty from this Nation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony.

As I have already indicated, I will be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman PERKINS. Let me first compliment you, Dr. Carter, and your associates who appeared here today with you. All have made an excellent presentation, and I think the committee will benefit tremendously from your presentation. You will be subjected to further questioning.

Mr. Quie has many questions on Headstart and Followthrough.

At this time I will call on Mr. Quie.

Mr. QUIE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First I want to express the keen interest that I have had for a long time in Headstart and the idea of giving additional assistance to young people before they reach the first grade, or kindergarten, beginning at age 3. I have long been a strong supporter of this and have felt that the Congress should establish and commit itself to a policy, which hasn't been done. And I recognize that the Congress has not done this, but OEO has done it, and has provided a Headstart program, which has been necessary.

And proof that it is well accepted is the fact that in the first year in the summertime, as I recall, they were planning on a program of about 100,000 children, and it ended up with something over 500,000, to show the keen interest among the parents and the community itself.

So we have a program here that is well accepted. The responsibility of the Federal Government in this area and the community that it be done is clear, although there has been some foot dragging in some communities.

I noted that the Economic Opportunity Act had no mention of Headstart to begin with. However, the act now carries a brief section on Headstart, on section 211-1.

Now you are going to add a Followthrough program, which I think has proven, in the Headstart program, that you need to carry on with these services in the first grade and beyond, because many of the children that did get a headstart regressed again after they had reached the full school system.