

away the experience that has been gained by transferring these operations from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Department of HEW?

Mr. BOUTIN. One of the best statements I have seen in this regard for a long time is the statement made by Secretary Wirtz yesterday before this committee, and I would stand side by side with him in his statement to that effect.

Chairman PERKINS. You believe then that we would be more or less derelict in our responsibility if we threw overboard a program that is working in an area of the greatest need?

Mr. BOUTIN. I think the concept of OEO, Mr. Chairman, as constituted is a sound concept, and therefore, I would not recommend to the Congress that it be dismembered, spun off, at least at this time. Later on perhaps certain components might be spun off. But these programs are still in their infancy. One of the finest things the Federal Government has ever done is this program Upward Bound. Dick Frost, in my mind, is one of the top educators in this country. To put that in an atmosphere which is rather staid in its approach to things—I don't mean this hypercritically, certainly, of the Department of HEW—I think would be a mistake. I think OEO is an innovative type of entity coming up with new ideas, trying new methods, having its share of failures but certainly its successes as well, has been a noble experiment and one I hope will be continued.

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Goodell.

Mr. GOODELL. I will not try to answer. I will simply say that the comment of the gentleman does not come as a great surprise to any of us familiar with his overall view. I recognize it is a sincerely held view. The gentleman started with OEO, was there throughout our hearings last year defending OEO. You may not have personally been one of those who spoke on the subject and resisted the transfer. But last year every amendment that was offered to spin off any portion of the OEO package was labeled an attempt to kill off the program. On it was said, you are not going to have the coordination you need, you need somebody to look over your shoulder to give you a new approach. SBA was among those being criticized as staid, as an agency which could not give the attention to the poor that was necessary without OEO's presence, driving them to it.

Your testimony today with reference to the SBA and the loan program designed to help the poor and the marginally poor is in very strong support for your view that the existing agencies, given the tools and the authority, can be just as innovative and just as idealistic and just as effective as OEO. And you can eliminate a great many of the administrative problems and chaotic situations that result from the structure you have now with OEO looking over your shoulder.

I thank the gentleman for his testimony. I recognize that there is sincerity in his opinion here.

Chairman PERKINS. I think you ought to comment on the response by Mr. Goodell.

Mr. BOUTIN. I would just like to say in response, Mr. Chairman, that I was at OEO for 7½ months. I was here during the hearings of last spring. I testified one day. If memory serves me correctly, most of