

Finally, we use our group of expert consultants for evaluations with the objective of having those experts visit each of the full year programs at least twice a year and a representative sample of the summer programs.

They have a dual objective, first of all, telling us what problems they see and what strengths they see in the local programs, but even more importantly, helping the local community to solve the problems that they see.

Before leaving the subject of evaluation let me emphasize the OEO has a real commitment to this process. We have tried to fund a wide variety of activities which would give us as much information and judgment on the subject as possible. While there are formidable technical problems involved here which must of necessity affect the initial results, we do believe that we are beginning to accumulate a very substantial body of useful information.

Let me turn now to the new and complimentary programs which are proposed this year by the President for inclusion as a part of the Headstart program. Both of these were mentioned in the President's message on children and youth which was sent to the Congress.

The first of them is called the Center for Children and Parents. I believe that Assistant Secretary Carter described this program briefly to the committee last Friday, but for those of you who may not have been present, let me say that this is intended to serve children under 3 years of age, or really families with children under 3 years of age, in a way that will provide complete and comprehensive services for that entire family.

It will be a very small program this year because we feel we have a good deal of learning to do as to just how one develops this kind of program. In total it will probably involve not more than 2,500 communities.

This program is being developed in real partnership with HEW, the Labor Department, and HUD, and at every step of the process we have been consulting very closely with them. Members of their staffs are chairing certain of the subcommittees which have developed programs and we have found this to be a very rewarding and useful experience.

One of the really rewarding results from a financial point of view part of this is that we think that a good deal of money which is available to those agencies can be used to complement the money which OEO has and provide a more effective total product.

The other new program this year is the followthrough program. This is a more substantial program.

Chairman PERKINS. You are going to address yourself to that right now?

Mr. SUGARMAN. If it pleases you, yes.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead.

Mr. SUGARMAN. The Followthrough program is being developed jointly by OEO and the HEW, specifically the Office of Education. The President's proposal includes \$120 million to support this program. The basic purpose of the Followthrough program is to take those children who have been in Headstart programs or similar title II or State-financed programs and continue on into their first and