

Mr. STEIGER. Can you supply to the committee anything at this point as to what has been arranged between OEO and the Office of Education on Followthrough or is that premature?

Mr. SUGARMAN. I think, Congressman, the general nature of what has been agreed to has been described in our testimony this morning, both by Dr. Estes and myself.

Mr. STEIGER. Would you think it would be appropriate in the pending legislation to more clearly delineate the Followthrough project rather than the rather broad, vague language under which you now have assumed the authority for Followthrough?

Mr. SUGARMAN. Well, Mr. Steiger, as I indicated earlier, my feeling is that it is beneficial to the program and beneficial to the Congress to have the opportunity to develop this kind of activity without undue legislative specificity.

This was the experience in Headstart. It was the experience in Upward Bound, legal services and a number of other programs. I think that on the basis of the experience which one gains this way, the Congress is then in a position to legislate more specific descriptors and to arrive at a better product.

That would just be my feeling about it. We can tell you better a year from now what you ought to say in legislation about Followthrough than we can tell you at this moment, not that we can't tell you some things now.

Mr. SHRIVER. Could I inject a thought, recalling when Congressman Goodell about a year and a half ago was commenting on the fact that Headstart got started. Since he is here now, he can verify whether this is correct.

I think he said something to the effect that he thought it was excellent that OEO had started Headstart, that he had tried for a number of years to get something like Headstart started, but I think he went on to say that he felt that if we had waited for Congress to approve in advance, that we might never have started Headstart.

I do believe that there is a great deal of merit in what I think Congressman Goodell said a year and a half ago, that when a program is trying or an agency is trying to break new ground, that it is very helpful if the agency ask the Congress for sufficient flexibility so that programs like Followthrough or the neighborhood health centers or legal services can get going and on the basis of pragmatic experience, practical experience, operating experience, develop in a way that may make them most effective on a practical basis rather than on a theoretical one with a lot of discussion before they actually get underway.

I don't mean to be misquoting Congressman Goodell, but I do believe that that was the general tenor of what he said about a year and a half ago.

Mr. GOODELL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. STEIGER. Yes, I yield.

Mr. GOODELL. Just for clarification, most of what you said I did say with one major point of difference, that this would not have been started if Congress had had to authorize it.

I certainly didn't mean to imply when the poverty program was first before our committee, Mr. Quie and I both raised—Mr. Quie particularly—the question as to whether Headstart would be eligible.