

This is something which is of interest to me. As you may know, the House Government Operations Committee estimated OEO spent some \$70 million on research and evaluation. I wonder what kind of work you have done in terms of reviewing any of the research or evaluation that has been done thus far by OEO.

Mrs. BENSON. Do you mean our assessment of such evaluation?

Mr. STEIGER. Have you had a chance to review it and assess it?

Mrs. BENSON. Not really. We have been so busy trying to keep up with and gathering together the reports from our local leagues that we really have not had a chance, although we know they exist, to thoroughly go through the evaluations which have already been made.

Mr. STEIGER. Would you have any comment for the committee as to where you feel the league might place the greater emphasis? Would it be in research done by OEO or would it be done in research available through outside professionals rather than an inshop type that oftentimes is used, I am afraid, more as a justification rather than a real evaluation.

Mrs. BENSON. I don't know that we could say that we would have a very specific type of opinion about that. I think both kinds of evaluations are needed. Any Government agency, any agency at all or institution has to do evaluations of its own in order to hopefully honestly assess how it is doing and what it is trying to do but I think the other kind of evaluation which is done by outsiders with professional expertise is also necessary.

We feel very strongly both are needed.

The OEO or any other agency, HEW or Labor, must be constantly involved in evaluating what they are doing so they can know for themselves whether or not they are achieving what they want to achieve.

While I suppose it is possible that some efforts at justification are made by evaluations I am sure that is not always the case, and evaluations have to be done both within and without an agency, we feel.

Mr. STEIGER. Has the League of Women Voters nationally, or have any of the State or local leagues become directly involved with the OEO?

Have you, for example, ever received any research grants from OEO?

Mrs. BENSON. Certainly the League of Women Voters of the United States, the national league, has not received anything of that order at all. As far as I know, no local league or State league has received any kind of contract or grant or anything.

I can't say they haven't because not having asked them "Have you?" I can't be absolutely certain, but I feel sure we would have heard of it had it been so.

Leagues have been involved with Community Action programs. They have been asked, for instance, to run voter education or voter registration courses. They have been, in several communities, asked to set up the election process for electing the boards, but nothing more formal than that.

Mr. STEIGER. I know the leagues, of course, throughout the country and certainly in the Sixth District, with which I am familiar, are very dedicated on this question of voter registration. What kind of work has been done by local leagues in terms of what you indicate are the courses for the local Community Action agency in this area?

Mrs. BENSON. I was just reading a report this morning from a local