

We should not allow ourselves to get locked in on what just might not be the best and the only way to involve the poor. We have some trepidation that some people will interpret our remarks as trying to pull an end run around this requirement. Not at all.

We are merely trying to assure, through actual experience, that what we now have is the best or perhaps some other method may be better.

We should not be afraid to determine that question through experimentation and demonstrations. We ask your support of that.

I have appreciated being here today and I will attempt to answer any question you might have.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Dellenback?

Mr. DELLENBACK. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Hawkins?

Mr. HAWKINS. I have only one, Mr. Chairman.

I think you indicated that the OEO should remain as an innovative agency and should retain jurisdiction of programs only until they have been proved, and in a sense they should be then spun off.

With that concept, are you willing at this time to indicate any programs you think have been proved and should no longer be retained by OEO, or have you any program to suggest that has been proved sufficiently and should not be retained by OEO at this time?

Mr. McDERMOTT. We think that operations such as Headstart, Neighborhood Youth Corps, are programs which have been well established and have been proven to be successful; yes, sir.

Mr. HAWKINS. Are you saying that NYC and Headstart should not be retained by OEO?

Mr. McDERMOTT. My reply would be my own personal judgment, since this is not a position which has been formulated by the National Association of Counties.

Mr. HAWKINS. I was asking for the position of the association.

Mr. McDERMOTT. They have not formulated a position.

Mr. HAWKINS. Then the reference you made to the NYC and Headstart was a personal opinion and not that of the association?

Mr. McDERMOTT. Yes, sir.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Dellenback?

Mr. DELLENBACK. Let me ask a followup question of the witness along the lines Mr. Hawkins has opened.

As one who has watched this carefully, even though it is not the official position of the National Association of Counties, Mr. McDermott, do you feel that in these areas such as Headstart there ought to be a change from the present situation?

Mr. McDERMOTT. In the Headstart program?

Mr. DELLENBACK. Yes, sir.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I don't believe it is quite as simple as that, and again I am giving you my personal reactions. I am also not on the directorate, but I do speak from 2 years' experience in the local community action program in my home county.

It is my feeling that the value of Headstart has been well established. I think it has been recognized, at least in my part of the country, that this represents a great departure from educational systems as we have known them there, and that it, however, in the field of education, and best administered by the educational system, but unless there is some watchdog agency, shall we say, or some continuing