concern, that the program be implemented as it was designed, I think that there would be a danger of going right back to the educational patterns as we have known them.

Mr. DELLENBACK. What do you think should happen with Headstart? I am not quite sure I understand what you are saying about this program.

Do you feel it ought to continue just as it is, or should there be some modification in its supervision?

Mr. MCDERMOTT. No. In our particular county, the community action agency is the applicant agency. The delegate agency is the public school system of Chester County, and I think that this kind of arrangement is an effective one.

A comparable arrangement on the Federal level might be that the OEO continues to be involved to see that the program is implemented as it was designed, but the actual administration might be by the educational system of our country.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Have you had occasion to work closely with OEO on a national level in any of these capacities? You indicated that you were involved in community action, I believe, yourself.

Have you had occasion to work closely with the national office of the OEO?

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Well, by "closely," I, at the beginning of my remarks, indicated that I have been for a year and a half a member of the public officials advisory council. We have met some half dozen times, I believe. I maintain communication with the national office.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Have you had occasion to deal closely also with the Office of Health, Education, and Welfare?

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Very little.

Mr. DELLENBACK. So you are not really in a sound personal position to compare the efficiency of one department versus the other, as far as administration is concerned?

You see, what is involved in the committee's deliberations at the moment is whether the Office of Economic Opportunity, on the basis of its record and the projects for the country, should be, as a national office, disbanded, as you realize, and that such concepts as community action programs be preserved and go forward with aggressiveness, but under the general supervision of HEW, rather than OEO. It is this type of of comparison about which I am asking. Have you worked closely enough with both of these agencies to make any comparative evaluation of whether you think the program of the war on poverty would move forward or backward if it were changed?

Mr. MCDERMOTT. My response would be that I have had little experience working with the National Office of HEW.

Perhaps, if I may, Mr. Ward, who is counsel for NATO, and closely involved with the——

Mr. DELLENBACK. Mr. Ward, yes.

Mr. WARD. First, the National Association of Counties has worked closely with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, welfare being our No. 1 budgetary item involvement with the Federal Government, and also in the field of health and other programs that HEW has.

Although our national organization has no specific position on the point that you are making, I think that based upon our very extensive