

That would be the way it would operate with the present vocational school system as set up and phasing out within 3 years of the Job Corps and in the meantime so many residential centers would be constructed. Assuming that we followed that course as provided for in the opportunity crusade where would it take us considering the progress that we are making presently with the Job Corps?

Dean PERLMUTTER. Well, I would say that first of all it would be premature both from the point of view of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as well as from the Job Corps.

Chairman PERKINS. Go ahead and tell us why.

Dean PERLMUTTER. On the side of HEW, and this is an opinion—I have no right to speak for the Secretary who can make his own judgments about what he is ready for or not ready for—but as I see HEW at close hand, and I am in there at least once or twice a month. It would seem to me that they have more than they can handle right now. They have a great deal on their hands and handing Job Corps to them would be giving them perhaps a task which is equal in complexity and difficulty to any single operation they have.

This would be one reason.

The second reason which I developed earlier this afternoon is I would not want to encourage this kind of operational tendency in the national agency. The virtue I see in OEO is that at some reasonable date we can terminate it and then see where it goes back into the local communities and the local schools.

I don't want to build up the habit in HEW much as I love some of those people, of saying, "Well, you are running schools or supervising or we have some guys that you are not," but in reality they would be.

From the point of view of the Job Corps itself you have a spirit of enthusiasm here as you have in any new organization that is just activated. You have a lot of people who are willing to devote time and energy to it who would look at a job in HEW as just another job. There is much more flexibility in this agency.

If I may trust what I hear the economics of the agency as an agency vis-a-vis the Federal Government is not bad. I don't know those facts, but I have heard them. So I don't know that there is an economic argument for doing that. I must say that one ought to, you know, canvass the people, at least the professional people who are actually involved in this work.

How do they feel about it? And I don't think by and large from just an informal sampling of them that in the centers that they would like this kind of transfer. Have you gotten indications from center directors or center staffs? Let me ask an open ended question which may embarrass me.

Are you getting representations from people like Dr. George or her staff that would rather be—

Chairman PERKINS. Not the first one.

Dean Perlmutter (continuing) That they would like to be in HEW? I don't know what this great attraction is to be in HEW, why that would alter the problem very much. You still face many of the same problems with more bureaucratic obstacles. The problems wouldn't go away. It seems to have a kind of administrative sanitation to have a bunch of departments and it says education and you put it in education. There are a great many agencies in the country today which are