

But, actually, the important thing, as we all know, if the President of the United States makes it clear to the heads of Cabinet departments that the head of the independent agency in a particular area is his representative, he will not have any difficulty in functioning and, in my judgment, can function far more effectively than assistant secretary in an established department.

So, on the basis of my experience in Government, on the basis of my work with the two Hoover Commissions, I would say to you there is no question in my mind at all but at this juncture it is far better to place this responsibility in an independent agency under an administrator.

In view of the fact that this has been operating just 2½ years, if an effort should be made to transfer out of this agency many of its substantive programs, in my judgment, there would be a serious loss of momentum.

I have watched transfers take place in the executive branch of the Government. I have watched what happens during the period of time when people are speculating as to whether or not the transfer is going to take place.

I have watched what happens when people are speculating as to how the transfer is to take place. I have watched what happens when people are speculating as to what the impact of the transfer is going to be on personnel in the agency that is carrying forward the job at a particular time, the impact on personnel in the agency to which it is to be transferred.

May I say to you all of the speculations that I have identified serves just one purpose and that is to put the program on dead center for a considerable period of time.

I think it would be very unfortunate for any aspect of this program at this particular juncture in our history to go on dead center.

I agree with Mr. Biemiller's comments to the effect that the time may very well come when the Congress will want to look at this independent agency just as it has looked at other independent agencies in the past and think about some transfer but I think this should happen only after programs are well established and it is clear to the Congress that they desire to continue the programs, then they might very well think about transferring to another department or agency, but in my judgment this is not the time and it would have a serious impact on the effectiveness of the war against poverty if the transfer should take place now.

Chairman PERKINS. As an educator, I would like to put one more question to you: You are familiar with the Opportunity Crusade that proposes to cut back the Job Corps \$190 million for the next fiscal year and would immediately transfer the operation to the Office of Education.

Do you feel that we would be throwing away valuable experience gained from the operation of the Job Corps if we cut back on the Job Corps at this time and would it be depriving youngsters that are not now admitted in vocational schools, and do we have residential centers available which the Office of Education could operate to effectively reach the type of youngster that the Job Corps is now reaching?

What is your opinion?