

high school principal and the Headstart program before it was actually funded.

Mrs. GREEN. Let me give you another example. Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act we have preschool programs that are run by the school system. Followthrough will be run by a similar system in the Office of Education.

As I understand your testimony, you have said, in effect, it is more important to have Headstart or Upward Bound or Headstart and the small business loans under one agency that is directing its war on poverty than it is to have Headstart and preschool under one agency that shares the same objective and the same goal.

Dr. FLEMMING. As I see it, the Office of Education deals primarily, of course, as it works out its programs, with the State departments of public instruction, with the public school systems, and I think it is a very good thing for the Office of Economic Opportunity to be in a position where it can inaugurate some programs that are directly related to the objectives of the Economic Opportunity Act without being dependent on those programs being accepted initially by the public school system.

In other words, I think this is one way of innovating and getting some new ideas into the picture which, if they prove themselves, will be ultimately accepted by the public school system.

I am confident of that. I know it is difficult whether you are talking about higher education or whether you are talking about elementary and secondary education to innovate, to get experimental programs underway, and sometimes it is a good thing for those programs to be set up outside of the system so that they can demonstrate their effectiveness in the hope that the system itself will then pick them up.

Mrs. GREEN. You are not suggesting in the school systems themselves that there are not 1,001 examples of innovations, just as many probably as we have in the war on poverty.

I am thinking of the model school in Portland which started before the war on poverty. If we went across the United States we could find scores of individual schools, and State departments that have done very imaginative, very innovative things.

I find it difficult to accept the theory that the Office of Economic Opportunity is the only agency capable of innovation.

Dr. FLEMMING. I accept the fact that the educational system has certainly at times been innovative and experimental in its approach and you could find many illustrations of that.

But I likewise think we could identify many illustrations of cases where the public school system has resisted innovation and experimentation.

My feeling is that the Office of Economic Opportunity is in a position where it can be of assistance to the system, taking the country as a whole by being willing to innovate, demonstrating the soundness of certain approaches in the hope then that they will be accepted.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Gibbons?

Mr. GIBBONS. I think Mrs. Green anticipated what I was going to ask and she beat me to the punch—she usually does—so I will not take up any more time.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. HAWKINS. It so happens that I have a person in Washington today who represents a group of parents from my particular district.