

finally be accepted by your public school system and be made a part of the public school system.

Mr. QUIE. On that part, evidently it took a while for the Congress to accept this concept as well because before the war on poverty and the Opportunity Act were enacted, I tried to get amendments through which would set broad public policy where the Congress would put money aside particularly for preschool programs, not just starting with kindergarten, but with children 3 years of age.

It is interesting that, as yet, the Congress has not written the policy for preschool education. It has given OEO authority. I think it is good they have at least embarked on the program that has great support locally.

The first year they proposed 100,000 people for the summer program and they found over 500,000 really wanted to get into it, and more after that became interested in it, but evidently they put a freeze on the amount of money available for that kind of program.

But I still have concern when people feel as you seem to, Dr. Flemming, that if the Office of Education administered the Head-start program then it could not be administered through community action agencies. Yet you and I are in agreement on the innovative feature of community action agencies and involvement with the poor, but what we seem to have a disagreement on is that only OEO can deal through community action agencies.

Dr. FLEMMING. I recognize Congress could make it possible for any department and certainly HEW to deal with the community in essentially the same way as the Office of Economic Opportunity, as they now have of dealing with the community. I recognize this to be the case.

This brings me back to my basic question on the organizational issue. In other words, I have the feeling as I reflected in my opening statement that at this juncture, 2½ years after Congress first passed the Economic Opportunity Act, it is better to keep the programs in the Office of Economic Opportunity rather than transferring them to an established agency.

I do not know whether you were here or not when I indicated I recognized that you could make provision for putting most of the programs, for example, under an assistant secretary.

In fact, I think your bill does make provision for that, particularly the community action aspect. But my feeling is, within the executive branch an Assistant Secretary in HEW at this particular point could not be as effective in moving this program forward and maintaining the momentum that now exists as the head of an independent agency such as the Office of Economic Opportunity.

I noted your comment about the liabilities that may attach to the head of an independent agency within the structure of the executive branch. But I pointed out that the independent agency head can do the kind of a job that we envisage if the President makes clear that the head of the independent agency is his representative in this particular area.

I referred to my own experience as Director of Defense Mobilization where I was the head of an independent agency, but President Eisenhower made it very clear from the outset that I was functioning