

simply must not be touched even if the Congress or if their members feel that there would be a greater coordination of programs that are identical in purpose if they were put in one agency. Why this attitude? Somehow it seems to me the witnesses have given the impression it is almost sacred, that you cannot touch the official there or you are going to destroy the whole program. I am thinking of Headstart. Educational leaders across the country have testified repeatedly that this program should be coordinated with other preschool programs and should be under the administration of local educational people and directed down from the Office of Education. Why is your position such that you would not do this?

Mr. BOONE. To review what I just said, Mrs. Green, we feel that the kinds of changes which can be made to increase the effectiveness of the Office of Economic Opportunity can and should be made within the framework of the office itself and the discretion of the administrator of those programs.

We feel further that the Office of Economic Opportunity should remain the central coordinating vehicle of antipoverty programs.

I might even correct that and say it should become the central coordinating vehicle of antipoverty programs simply because we do not believe there has been the effective authority present with which to effectively coordinate Federal antipoverty efforts in relation to and in support of local antipoverty efforts.

Mrs. GREEN. On page 7 you said Congress should continue to support the local communities' right to shape programs. What you just said, I think, would negate this. First, what do you mean by the local communities' right?

Mr. BOONE. I am referring to the local community action agency in establishing priorities based upon its survey of local need and expectation.

Mrs. GREEN. What you really mean is Congress should continue to support the CAP's right to determine the shape of a community's antipoverty program; is that right?

Mr. BOONE. Only if there is an on-going monitoring evaluation of the effectiveness of local community action programs and their abilities to respond effectively to local need and expectations within their communities. I say that—

Mrs. GREEN. That is a pretty big "if."

Mr. BOONE. It is a very big "if." I think the community action programs can be successful only if there is a system of evaluation and monitoring and only if that system is backed up with the authority to act based upon the results of that monitoring and evaluation. I think that in all Federal programs we have seen a great deal of evaluation, a great deal of monitoring without results being taken to change those programs consistent with the evaluations of them. I think this requires coverage. I think it requires a lot of guts. I think the community action programs cannot succeed unless such systems are developed and adhered to.

Mr. GOODELL. Would the gentlelady yield?

Mrs. GREEN. Yes; I will be glad to yield.

Mr. GOODELL. May I ask in simplified terms what you feel OEO should do? You, in effect, feel that OEO itself should be concerned with a minimum of the administrative details but should be the conduit