

familiar with fund-raising drives in Cincinnati points out that the Community Chest was "already raising eight million dollars a year and it would be hard to get more."

As for the Federal government, several respondents suggest that HEW might pick up the program; others suggest HUD or the Labor Department.

Head-Start

Head-Start is named by more than half the community leaders interviewed as a highly beneficial program. It draws the support of all respondents from the business community and individuals in most of the other categories. Many of the respondents discuss Head-Start jointly with a very similar but much smaller preschool program carried out to demonstrate the advantages of Montessori teaching methods.

The special value of these preschool programs is summed up by a CAC executive. "They compensate, *at the earliest possible moment*, for the inadequacies in health, welfare, and schooling of a disadvantaged child's environment," he states. "They give these kids a chance to catch up with their upper and middle-class peers so that they will have a fair start in school."

Most of the community leaders agree: "Head-Start attacks the basic cause of poverty—poor education—at a critical time, when the deprived individual is still young," one declares. Another notes approvingly that the program tackles all the problems of a deprived child—physical, social, moral, emotional—to "remove his predisposition to failure and give him maximum readiness for school." A journalist praises the program for giving underprivileged children some cultural background—"showing them there are other things." Several respondents particularly value the way the program involves parents.

The use of target area people as Teachers Aides in Head-Start classes is praised by an elected official for simultaneously making possible small classroom groups and giving useful jobs to the poor. This same respondent has particular praise for the Montessori program, as "the only one with evaluation built in." He adds: "It's expensive, but at least they know what they've achieved in relation to goals and objectives."

A businessman believes that the recent defeat of a special Cincinnati school tax levy gives Head-Start particular pertinence. Should lack of tax funds force the schools to drop kindergartens, "Head-Start would have to fill the hole that would be left."

Not all the evaluations of Head-Start are favorable. "Such programs are meaningless unless they organize people to change their environment," a civil rights leader comments critically. "Otherwise they are just hatching a new group of the powerless poor in the same environment."

Respondents differ on whether the programs have had any impact on the activities or techniques of local government. A CAC official believes that it has "loosened up the Board of Education to consider the value of child development programs—taking into account a child's physical and emotional needs—as contrasted to so-called 'pure' education." This respondent also believes that Head-Start has helped the school system to recognize the value of parent involvement and the use of nonprofessional Teachers Aides. "While CAC pays for 100 such Aides," he points out, "the Cincinnati Board of Education has hired 130 more. This is a real breakthrough."

In contrast, an official of the school system states he is not "sure there had been any effect." The same respondent, however, believes that the private social welfare agencies are "beginning to reappraise their own Day Care Centers in terms of Head-Start."

A senior CAC official does not see the program as having any effect on the community's budget for social problems. An elected official states that for the present "the program has actually increased public costs, since the school system is paying for its own preschool teachers. In the long term, however, there may be savings, since the Head-Start kids are less likely to become public charges."

In the view of a school official, Head-Start has probably had some effect in reducing the number of juvenile arrests. "The mothers of small children are likely to feel better about public agencies because of the program," he declares. "As a result, they are more ready to encourage their other children to accepted social behavior. They are less likely to be antisocial. This seems pretty definite—and is one reason Cincinnati has not had any major civil disturbances."

Expansion of the program is urged by a majority of respondents. A CAC executive declares that there should not only be more children enrolled in more