

schools for longer training, but the program should be expanded into new areas—"for example, preschool programs are needed in Newport, Kentucky, where the Board of Education is very weak and there is no program of remedial help for the underprivileged."

An elected official, although critical of several other aspects of CAC gives a resounding "Yes" to expanding Head-Start. "We've only scratched the surface. Money should be taken from other programs and put into this one." Another respondent, noting that Cincinnati Head-Start now serves 1,300 children in the summer but only 575 during the school year, declares that "many more year-round classes should be held—summer classes don't come near doing the job. One year is a minimum—*two years would be better.*"

A businessman agrees and notes that "the Montessori people are seeking a program that would extend over two or three years." This respondent is worried by surveys "that seem to show that the benefits of Head-Start are lost after the child has been in a regular school a few months. These underprivileged children are not getting enough of a head start to see them through." A newspaper reporter has also heard that Head-Start benefits are lost "when the children go back to those horrible homes." The respondent declares: "Attempts should be made to *keep* the good effects—not just say Head-Start is no good because the effects don't last." Another respondent emphasizes that Head-Start should be followed up by adult education programs for parents.

The possibility that Head-Start might be curtailed has already produced a strong reaction in the community, a school official reports. "This OEO program has received more sympathetic support than any other," he states. "The people whose children are in the program are also strongly for it—many letters have been received from parents asking that Head-Start be continued." A social worker believes that Head-Start curtailment would flood the Day Care Centers—and other children would become "doorkey" kids, left alone all day. "There would be some increase in crime, children molested, etc. The parents would be upset." A businessman concurred. "Hopefully, many families would say 'our children need this education to do better than we have.'" But he concedes that some working mothers would merely regret the loss of their Head-Start "baby-sitters." A journalist doubts that there would be much, if any, visible reaction from parents—"they just don't realize the value of the program."

Opinions differ as to whether there is any hope of someone else picking up Head-Start if OEO dropped it. A CAC staff executive states that neither local government nor the private social agencies have the money to keep the preschool program going. As for other Federal sponsors—"sibling rivalry among the Federal agencies makes it certain that any agency that can get hold of the money will take the programs." But he warns that if HEW picked it up "they will provide help for the whole community—rich and poor alike—and the special needs of the poor won't be recognized."

Although one respondent believes that Head Start has a better chance of being carried on by local government than any other program, the failure of the special school tax levy is cited as making it unlikely. "In fact the Education Board is even talking of dropping kindergartens," this community leader points out. As for the private agencies taking over, a school official believes that they might pick up some of the load "but nowhere near as much as the schools carry. The agencies lack recruiting and training facilities as well as the necessary physical facilities. Classes would have to be held in substandard rooms with inadequate personnel."

Several community leaders think there is a possibility that the Office of Education might come to the rescue under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—"After all, Head-Start is more important than some present ESEA programs," a businessman states.

(The summer Head-Start program in Clermont County, carried out independently of those in Cincinnati, is discussed critically by a senior CAC official. He notes that while the schools generally like the program, some of the districts that need it most, such as New Richmond, are unwilling to accept it. This respondent believes there has been too little involvement of parents—an important element of the program—and not enough pains taken in the selection of the children, particularly in regard to income level. "There was also insufficient care in hiring Teachers Aides. These were supposed to be selected from among the parents of the children, but actually few of these were hired. Most of the Aides were college students home for summer vacation.")