

work-study programs. This would avoid duplication and promote better coordination of existing programs.

The in-school program has, by the evidence available, reduced the dropout rates by providing underprivileged youths with the extra cash that enables them to stay in school. By operating the program as a direct work-study program, in conjunction with the schools, there will be a closer relationship between the type of occupation the youth is being prepared for and the part-time employment he is able to secure. Examples of programs of this nature which have been successfully implemented with private funds are numerous and show remarkable success.

6. The Out-of-School Neighborhood Youth Corps should be transferred to the Department of Labor where it could be better conducted so as to provide meaningful work experience. Bringing this program closer to existing on-the-job training programs could encourage the development of programs more closely fitted to current job market needs than is now possible.

The present make-work structure of out-of-school programs does little to inculcate good work habits in enrollees, much less job training. The difficulty that many programs have had in recruiting enrollees indicates that more meaningful work-related programs must be devised.

In this connection, we would urge the expansion of the concept of on-the-job training in the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

7. The Head Start Program should be transferred to the Office of Education with the provision that it be integrated in the elementary education system as part of an over-all evolution in education practices. Upon transfer to the Office of Education, special attention should be maintained on the objective of giving supportive health services and other forms of special attention to program enrollees who come from economically and culturally deprived families.

Headstart, according to available evidence, is an initial success. However, the chamber study, as well as some other more recent studies, indicates that the benefits of Headstart can be quickly negated when the program's special attention is not pursued in the regular school system. By transferring the Headstart to the Office of Education, it is anticipated that the benefits of this special program can be followed through in the primary grades and the Office of Education can be infected with the unique aspects that Headstart has introduced.

The report, "Youth and the War on Poverty," and recommendations are concerned chiefly with youth training programs. The chamber federation has done much more than make studies and recommend actions at the national level. Local chambers and business members have been actively engaged in local programs that serve the disadvantaged.

We want to emphasize that our recommendations would not—and I repeat, would not—abolish the Office of Economic Opportunity. That organization would still be responsible for administering the heart of the Economic Opportunity Act; namely, title II(a), the community action programs.

Although we are aware of some of the serious administrative difficulties OEO has encountered in handling the CAP program, we believe that the emphasis of title II(a) on local involvement and decision-making is in the right direction.