

Head Start

1. All observers agree that Head Start has demonstrated the ability to advance rapidly the enrollee so that he can start his school experience on at least an equal footing with children from more advantaged homes.

We would agree with all of the observers on this point.

2. There is considerable evidence to suggest that all of the benefits of the Head Start program are not retained when the child enters the regular school system.

Undoubtedly, what happens to the youngsters in the regular school system is of prime importance in determining the ultimate success of the program. But it is here, in the regular school system, that the program fails. Since the follow-up in the public schools has already been entrusted to the Office of Education, it would be unrealistic to suggest that this now be placed under the direction of OEO. My question is, why take a successful program, such as Head Start, and place it under an agency which in the past has demonstrated no capability in dealing with the problems of the poor?

3. The training programs for Head Start teachers have not been successful.

We cannot speak for all training programs for Head Start teachers. However, the programs with which we have been involved, both the ones OEO has contracted with Universities and the ones we have held under their guidelines, have been extremely successful. Their chief area of success has been in daring to use new methods and in "training out" some of the traditional attitudes and methods of teachers which are proving to be detrimental to early childhood development, not only of poor children, but of all children. I would have to see further evidence to believe this criticism.

In summary, I believe the Office of Economic Opportunity's most important reason for being is that the *visible* agency of the poor and has in a very short time demonstrated that changes can occur on a local level which other groups and agencies have only talked about for a long time. If TAP (our local Roanoke Valley community action organization) says to the poor, and the middle class of the Roanoke Valley, that someone cares, then OEO says this on a national level. If programs are assigned to the various established federal agencies, then it is reasonable to assume that the next step is to do the same on the local levels. We would very soon be right back to where we were before 1965.

The problem is not that OEO is a failure but that too little money has been spent and too little time has elapsed for the elimination of this overwhelming national—and world—problem. If we don't spend more money one way, however, we shall certainly be forced to spend it another.

If these programs are funded piecemeal by the various agencies, I suspect what will result is more duplication, rather than less. The way it is presently, one office (OEO Regional) is constantly aware of the total effort in the Roanoke Valley and helps us to keep an eye on the overall effort and need. With all of its lack of organization, evaluation, and funds, OEO has demonstrated an ability to reach people, to understand them, their problems and dreams, and to give them a feeling of belonging to something and being somebody. This is the basic, most important aspect of the poverty problem. What is the record of the other agencies before the advent of OEO?

We invite the Chamber of Commerce, Congressmen, businessmen, and all interested persons to visit the Roanoke Valley and see first-hand the progress which is being made.

Mr. QUIE. We will now take the Interreligious Committee Against Poverty, Rev. Larold Schulz, chairman, Antipoverty Task Force, National Council of Churches of Christ; Rabbi Richard Hirsch, director, Religious Action Center; and George L. Haithcock, director of field service, National Catholic Community Service.

STATEMENTS OF REV. LAROLD SCHULZ, CHAIRMAN, ANTIPOVERTY TASK FORCE, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST; RABBI RICHARD HIRSCH, DIRECTOR, RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER; AND GEORGE L. HAITHCOCK, DIRECTOR OF FIELD SERVICE, NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reverend SCHULZ. I am Larold Schulz, and on my left is Rabbi Richard Hirsch, and on my right, Mr. George L. Haithcock.