

Senator PERCY. I would very much appreciate it if you would give me a little more detail as to what that expanded program will embrace.

Mr. SCHULTZE. I will do that.

Senator PERCY. Thank you.

(The following was subsequently supplied for the record in response to Senator Percy's request:)

The basic outlines of the FY 1968 Head Start program are contained in the President's message on America's Children and Youth, sent to the Congress on February 8. In that message the President stated:

"STRENGTHENING HEAD START

"Head Start—a preschool program for poor children—has passed its first trials with flying colors. Tested in practice the past two years, it has proven worthy of its promise.

"Through this program, hope has entered the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and their parents who need it the most.

"The child whose only horizons were the crowded rooms of a tenement discovered new worlds of curiosity, of companionship, of creative effort. Volunteer workers gave thousands of hours to help launch poor children on the path toward self-discovery, stimulating them to enjoy books for the first time, watching them sense the excitement of learning.

"Today Head Start reaches into three out of every four counties where poverty is heavily concentrated and into every one of the fifty states.

"It is bringing more than education to children. Over half the youngsters are receiving needed dental and medical treatment. Hearing defects, poor vision, anemia, and damaged hearts are being discovered and treated.

"In short, for poor children and their parents, Head Start has replaced the conviction of failure with the hope of success.

"The achievements of Head Start must not be allowed to fade. For we have learned another truth which should have been self-evident—that poverty's handicaps cannot be easily erased or ignored when the door of first grade opens to the Head Start child.

"Head Start occupies only part of a child's day and ends all too soon. He often returns home to conditions which breed despair. If these forces are not to engulf the child and wipe out the benefits of Head Start, more is required. Follow-Through is essential.

To fulfill the rights of America's children to equal educational opportunity the benefits of Head Start must be carried through to the early grades.

"We must make special efforts to overcome the handicap of poverty by more individual attention, by creative courses, by more teachers trained in child development. This will not be easy. It will require careful planning and the full support of our communities, our schools and our teachers.

*"I am requesting appropriations to launch a 'Follow-Through' program during the first school grades for children in areas of acute poverty.*

"The present achievements of Head Start serve as a measure of the distance we must still go:

"Three out of four Head Start children participate only in a summer program. The summer months are far too brief to close the gap separating the disadvantaged child from his more fortunate classmate.

"Only a small number of three-year-olds are now being reached. The impact of Head Start will be far more beneficial if it is extended to the earlier years.

"Head Start has dramatically exposed the nutritional needs of poverty's children. More than 1.5 million preschoolers are not getting the nourishing food vital to strong and healthy bodies.

"To build on the experience already gained through Head Start:

*"I am requesting funds from the Congress and I am directing the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity to:*

*"1. Strengthen the full year Head Start program.*

*"2. Enlarge the number of three-year-olds who participate in Head Start.*

*"3. Explore, through pilot programs, the effectiveness of this program on even younger children.*