

It helps people train, knowing that a program exists, to get jobs, to have an opportunity to be employed, and thus be of service.

However, on the other side now, quite frequently we have established categorical programs, and then after we have attained a large part of our objective, we tend sometimes to keep the program from responding to changing emphasis or priorities. I don't think that because we have established a program at a particular time it ought to remain the same program forever. You might be able to modify or merge it.

Now taking your point, I think that maybe 10 years from now or 8 years from now, title I, Headstart, followthrough, maybe some other education titles, might be enveloped in a broader educational category.

Representative SCHEUER. We certainly hope they will be embraced by the public education system itself, don't we?

Mr. COHEN. Now that is part of the problem. You see, you have touched on it. The fact of the matter is we have had such notable weaknesses in many local educational boards and agencies throughout the country that Congress really said "Gee, we can't afford to allow some people to decide not to do these things for our children. We are going to make the categorical grant very attractive." And they did, title I is a 100 percent Federal grant if the community has a maintenance of effort provision for dealing with disadvantaged children. Well, I guess there are 17,000 school districts now participating in title I, and that is what Congress wanted. I would be the last to say that Congress exercised an unwise judgment in making that decision. But if after 5 or 8 or 10 years and you have attained 70 percent of your objective, you might then add some other elements and make a broader category. I think that it is perfectly reasonable for Congress to do this.

I think you can undertake the Heller-Pechman plan in addition to some of these things, but I strongly would not like to see categorical programs that are meeting the national interest, and those aimed at national interests not yet attained, eliminated. I might say this for Senator Proxmire—the lesson I learned at the University of Wisconsin under my professors who were most concerned about retaining a Federal-State-local system was that the categorical grants allowed you to attain a national objective with a decentralized method of administration. In our creative Federal system, you can meet national needs with Congress acting as the board of directors. I think experience, despite all the trials and errors and difficulties, has shown in these last 30 years that a lot has been accomplished.

Representative SCHEUER. I thank you.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Thank you again, Mr. Scheuer, for your fine questions.

I want to thank Mr. Myers and Mrs. Merriam as well as Secretary Cohen, and I can tell you, Mr. Secretary, that Wisconsin and Milwaukee are mighty proud of you and I think they are very proud of your performance this morning, which has been excellent, responsive, and thoughtful and very welcome.

The committee will reconvene tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock to hear the noncontroversial Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr. Martin. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 1 p.m., the committee adjourned until Thursday, February 9, 1967 at 10 a.m.)