

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

File

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Herb Jasper, Member
White House Task Force on Education

Interview with HEW Regional Director, O'Connor by Gil Schulkind
and Herb Jasper on May 12

O'Connor believes that the OE regional program has worked very effectively and should be decentralized further. He observed that the workload has grown substantially since personnel were first assigned to New York as clients learned of their availability. He pointed out that there was no evidence of State resistance or of by-passing the representatives of those Bureaus who were in New York. Adult and vocational education were mentioned as subjects on which further regional activities appeared desirable.

O'Connor meets weekly with the head of each HEW constituent and monthly with all of them together. He thinks that MacLaughlin has done a fine job as acting Regional Representative for three years and has the confidence of the States. He thinks it important that a full time OC representative be appointed and believes that this official should have line authority over the Bureau and Division representatives. Furthermore, the regional office should have authority to make decisions within the limits of policies determined in Washington.

He finds that OE does not provide information at the regional level on its programs for which there is no representative and that they are not equipped to answer a wide variety of inquiries which they could do well if more information were provided. In response to a question, he observed that, if necessary, one or more OE regional functions could cover the New England area out of the New York office without causing administrative complications.

JASPER/slaughter

cc: Mr. Ink
Mr. Oganovic
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Subject
Chron