

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you feel that any Federal aid should go directly from the Government in Washington to the local school district?

Mr. BESSE. Yes. I know of no State organization that—

Mr. GRIFFIN. You realize that this is a new concept, it departs from everything we have known under constitutional government in the past, in the sense that education has always been a State responsibility, and, in the past, when we have had Federal aid suggestions, they have generally been with the idea that they would be administered through the State and with partial financing by the State. There may be a program here or there which deviated from that statement, but that has been the general pattern. This, of course, ignores the historical pattern, and that is the trend which you want to advance?

Mr. BESSE. We have an action in Cleveland right now with Federal aid that did not come through the State. It is called community action for youth.

Mr. GRIFFIN. You approve of this?

Mr. BESSE. It is one of the things that is being demonstrated that supports my belief that if we had extra funds, and we have been unable to raise them locally, we could do a substantially improved job.

Mrs. GREEN. Will you yield?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Yes; I yield.

Mrs. GREEN. The whole "impacted" school aid program is based on the Federal funds going specifically to the local school district.

Mr. GRIFFIN. This is a question of whether we want to accelerate this trend or not.

Mr. ROOSEVELT. I think it is important to point out that in yesterday's testimony, the author of the bill agreed with several of the mayors that we would adopt an amendment that would say that wherever there was an existing local organization, as there is in some cities and in some States, that any program would have to come from them to the Federal administrator before it could be approved.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I am concerned about the State's role.

Mr. V. MARTIN. Could I make a comment on this? I would just like to simply comment on this. I certainly believe in the importance of State government. I also want to point out that I was born in a rural community downstate; was educated downstate in Illinois; and came to Chicago for my graduate work and then into business. So, in that I know both sides of the State, I think that one of the startling developments in our whole governmental process here has been the consolidation of populations and economic and industrial power in a given area. For example, in the county of Cook we have roughly as many people as there are downstate. In the Chicago area, we have over 6 million people in a 5- or 6-county area.

Now, I have worked with our State legislature and I have great respect for them as individuals, but, I understand, being a farm boy myself, exactly the attitude that downstate legislators have many times about giving to Cook County and the Chicago area what is a reasonable amount of funds or reasonable leeway in which to handle precise funds. For example, the county in which I was born and grew up as a farm boy—there are about 90,000 people there—89,900 of them are white. In the Chicago area, Cook County, we have roughly 25 percent; we will say, of our total population nonwhite, and here is where this terrific concentration of poverty is located.