

about local districts should be permitted to pass on to the Federal Government their normal routine school costs. Then you speak of new objectives, new curriculum, and so forth, in short, a whole new set of concepts must be adopted to make headway in eliminating poverty. Few school systems are apt to take these steps except as an incident to a major overall program supported by substantial outside financing.

I assume you mean by that the Federal Government, and that you mean direct Federal aid to schools?

Mr. BESSE. Yes, sir.

Mr. BELL. Is that correct?

Mr. BESSE. Yes, sir.

Mr. BELL. Speaking of direct Federal aid to primary and secondary schools, would you think that that Federal aid should go to private, parochial as well as public schools?

Mr. BESSE. I advocate that this be done through the public school system.

Mr. BELL. In other words, you would not have any Federal aid at all to parochial or private schools?

Mr. BESSE. I think that there are activities of the private and parochial schools that contribute to these solutions, but I would have them under the coordination direction of the public school system.

Mr. BELL. Would you have the Federal Government change anything in the way of teacher certification?

Mr. BESSE. The Federal Government?

Mr. BELL. Yes; the Federal Government improve the teaching standards through any method they want to recommend.

Mr. BESSE. No; I would leave teacher certification as well as the details of an improvement program in the hands of the local people.

Mr. BELL. I assume, Mr. Besse, now, as I understand this, in our education program a large part of our problem is actually getting good teachers and seeing that teachers teach the right curriculum. As you indicated in your remarks here, new curriculum, new facilities, new teacher training, new family relationships, new coordination with other public and private agencies, new time coverage, new cultural involvement—in short, a whole new set of concepts must be adopted to make headway in eliminating poverty—you are talking about teachers and about this massive program. You say the local government cannot handle it. I take it from this you must mean that the Federal Government should move into the area of teachers?

Mr. BESSE. The local government can't finance it. They can handle it if they have the dollars.

Mr. BELL. I mean finance it. Are you supposing that you might believe that the State government, even though they had the financing of it, were not doing a good job of selecting teachers and changing the curriculum, and so forth, supposing they decided not to do this or make changes in this area, do you think the Federal Government should have something to say about it?

Mr. BESSE. I think the local governments have not done a good job in these poverty areas. I think the principal reason they haven't is lack of funds. They could do it; in fact, in Cleveland they have demonstrated an ability in some areas to substantially improve these things on a limited basis. There are not enough dollars to do it.