

What we have done in Cleveland has, by and large, been in the suburbs where there is more money. Where the poverty is, we have not been able to raise the money to do it.

Mr. BELL. You are talking about these national changes, changes on a national scope to fight this poverty. You have 50 different States. Supposing they do not go in the direction of fighting poverty adequately. Would you think that the Federal Government should play a part in this?

Mr. BESSE. I don't think the Federal Government should direct the program. I think one of the greatest assets of our whole educational system has been its diversity. In spite of the diversity, we have had from the beginning, which you just characterized, we have developed our school systems to whatever level they are without Federal coordination. I don't believe we need Federal coordination to do these things now. What we need is money.

Mr. BELL. The argument on the other side, which I suspected you were going to raise, is the point that the Federal Government puts up the money, therefore, it has some responsibility to see that the overall program you are discussing is coordinated properly. I thought that is what you would say. You say still the States should control it.

Mr. BESSE. Not the States; I would leave it with the school boards.

Mr. LANDRUM. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BELL. Could I have an additional minute?

Mr. LANDRUM. Without objection.

Mr. BELL. As you know, the power of the Federal Government, as I pointed out before, to approve a project is still inherent in most of our aid programs and particularly those dealing with this poverty package. That is a factor. So the Federal Government giving money is, in effect, de facto direction, is it not?

Mr. BESSE. I would hope not. I think that is under the control of the Congress and the citizens as well as anything else that we do. We have set up a school system that is traditional in this country with the habit and practice of running its own affairs. I think that is so deeply ingrained that there is perhaps less chance of Federal interference than almost any other kind of institution we have in the country. Everybody went to a public school. Everybody's children went to public school with great pride in the local direction of public schools. If we keep this in the hands of the local school boards, the local teachers, finances them to do the job, I think they will work out their own direction on these things.

Mr. BELL. I hope you are right, Mr. Besse. However, I can see it could be interpreted that this view might be on the naive side to think that the Federal Government is going to approve so many features of this and yet not be a factor in this direction.

Mr. BESSE. Perhaps so. I doubt if it is as naive as thinking that there is going to be any solution to this biggest domestic problem we have if we don't have Federal aid.

Mr. LANDRUM. The time has expired.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Holland, desires recognition?

Mr. HOLLAND. I yield to the gentleman from California.