

up out of poverty in the next generation. Because to feed them, to give them milk and other health building foods is one thing but it is not going to do them much good to be healthy if they get out of school and are not able to find work—if, that is, they are not qualified to work.

As I said to Congressman Landrum, I think it would not be proper for me in this setting to try to advise the committee in technical constitutional language as to the solution of this problem, but I do raise it seriously for the consideration of the committee and I honestly feel that it is not an insoluble problem in the light of the experience that we have had with the school lunch program and the other programs.

Mr. BELL. Do you see any danger, Monsignor, in the encroachment that this would involve in Federal direct aid. In some cases in this particular bill there are phrases that would make you think there is even not the necessity for the Federal Government to go through the procedure of giving the State the direct responsibility while the Federal Government is providing the funds. In some cases, it even implies that the Federal Government moves in and makes its own arrangements with local concerns. Then you get into the other features of the activities which involve religion in which there is direct aid.

Don't you see some problems there of the Federal Government encroachment in all of this?

Monsignor HIGGINS. You mean danger to the autonomy and freedom of the school?

Mr. BELL. The parochial school, the religious organizations and State organizations and local organizations.

Monsignor HIGGINS. I do not see it as a great problem. I think the spirit of this bill, and I admire the way in which it is drafted, is very reasonable. I do not think it is the intent of the bill, or its drafters, so far as I read the language of the bill, to build up some kind of colossal Federal bureaucracy which is going to be telling the States, the local communities, and local community groups how to run their affairs.

I think the Federal Government is acting as a catalyst trying to do what it can through the coordination of programs to help the people who need help.

To be quite specific, in direct answer to the question, I would not see that as a danger to the parochial schools or to other private groups.

Mr. BELL. For example, this bill would permit the use of Federal funds for possibly even such activities as birth control carried out by public and private agencies.

Monsignor HIGGINS. I am not aware of that. If you tell me that is so, I would be glad to—

Mr. BELL. It would imply that.

Monsignor HIGGINS. That is a problem that can be discussed in its own context. Your specific question to me, I think, was, as I understood it, whether or not I felt that including under constitutionally sound ways, including parochial schools in some phases of the educational program would be a danger in the autonomy of those schools, and I do not think it would be.

Mr. LANDRUM. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. BELL. Yes.

Mr. LANDRUM. Wherein do you find in this act such authority to conduct these programs?