Mr. GOODELL. If I may say so, Monsignor Higgins, I think 204(b), the language of it, is designed specifically to prevent the administration of this program by a parochial or a private school. It has to be administered by the public school. That is the whole purpose.

Monsignor HIGGINS. Under the language as it is written now.

Mr. GOODELL. Yes.

Monsignor HIGGINS. That would be my interpretation.

Mr. GOODELL. When I say should we strike it, I agree we can leave it in and say but you could also permit private schools to administer these programs and then the section no longer has the intent that it did when they put it in here. There is no reason for saying that it must be administered by a public education agency or agency principally responsible for providing public elementary and secondary education in the area involved except to exclude private schools.

Monsignor HIGGINS. You are suggesting striking the entire (b)?

Mr. GOODELL. Yes.

Monsignor HIGGINS. I misunderstood you. I thought originally you were referring to the last sentence which says that "no child shall be denied."

Mr. GOODELL. No; the entire 204(b). As far as that is concerned, I would strike the first sentence and leave the sentence, "No child shall be denied the benefit of such a program because he is not regularly enrolled in the public schools."

Monsignor HIGGINS. That, it seems to me, would be a better wording than the bill has now and I think more in line with the purposes of the bill. However, my intent in raising the question, as I indicated earlier, was not to presume to suggest language to the committee.

Mr. GOODELL. I understand that. I am not presuming to suggest that this is what I think we should do. What I am trying to do is clarify what you are urging us to do here. It seems to me you are urging us to make these funds available so that they can be administered in proper circumstances by the private school, as well as the public school.

Monsignor HIGGINS. Yes; in the wisdom of the administrator, who would have to decide on the need. I think need is the matter which should be considered.

Mr. GOODELL. I agree with what the gentleman from Georgia said and what you have said, Monsignor, that what we are concerned with obviously is the child. This we will have to deal with very precisely or we will get into some difficult problems. We have seen it happen in other fields on other legislation.

Monsignor HIGGINS. I am currently reading a new book on the history of this entire dispute in the last 15 years, so I know how complicated it is, but in my judgment, if we were able to solve the problem of feeding children, even when they weren't needy, then it seems to me that if we want to really go all out in the war against poverty and make sure that we tackle this problem effectively, there ought to be some way of solving what I consider to be an even more important problem at the moment, and that is providing the necessary remedial training for these children.

Mr. GOODELL. I think the monsignor will agree with me that with our concern for material poverty we must remember that not only in the poor people of our country but in many other sectors of our