

There has been a difference of opinion on both sides of the aisle in the past as to actually what is the need for more classrooms and money to pay for more teachers and better equipment. I think if we had long-range plans from each of the States, this would be a useful document to help Congress formulate a program for elementary and secondary education. As this bill has, fortunately, two eminent Republican members of this committee sponsoring it and as it is identical with, or virtually identical with, title I in the bigger Federal aid bill for public elementary and secondary schools, it has the support of the leading Democrats. So, you have the leaders on both sides of the aisle in agreement on this \$5 million bill. Therefore, I hope very much that it will get passed.

Mr. PERKINS. It is in the subcommittee, Mr. Goodell, in time we want to get together to report out this study. There is no earthly reason why we cannot. There is no reason why we cannot do it next week.

Mr. GOODELL. I am sure we can.

Mr. Hecht, if your appearance here has done no more than make possible the enactment of this bill, your appearance here has been well worth while.

Mr. HECHT. You have mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the religious difficulties which all Federal aid for elementary and secondary school legislation has run into, and I am fully aware of it, and I think I understand all the complications and compromises that are embodied in this bill.

While our committee has never taken a stand on the question of Federal aid for parochial schools, it has only done one thing, it has endorsed Federal aid for public schools; I do think this bill is a good compromise. Things in life—as I am getting older I see the way to get action is to do a certain amount of compromising and I am for getting started with this job.

We have been having excuses for a decade or nearly two decades. The religious problem has been the greatest problem but here is a sensible compromise that won't hurt, not only won't hurt anybody; it won't violate the Constitution. It does not establish any firm precedent and it will get money into the local communities to aid education. Let us make a start.

With this compromise, even though it is not perfect, let us pass it, amend it next year if necessary, but let us make a start.

Mr. PERKINS. I appreciate your approach, Mr. Hecht. We cannot climb all the fences at one time. If we can get over this one, maybe we can come back and pick up on elementary and secondary.

Mr. GOODELL. I have no further questions except I agree with you, Mr. Hecht, that this is a direct form of Federal aid to education. This is something that some of the other witnesses have skirted around.

I think your testimony is very refreshing in facing directly the fact that it is and that the key to this problem is education. I am not sure that I agree that this is very much of a compromise, however, in its present form.

Mr. HECHT. I meant compromise on the parochial school issue.

Mr. PERKINS. You are not giving up the idea we do need the elementary and secondary?

Mr. HECHT. No. I just meant it was a compromise on the parochial school problem that has kept the bigger legislation from going through.