

eral Government with its responsibility, with its authority, to undertake programs of this nature for the Indians alone.

Obviously, if we extend a program of this nature to all the poor of the country, the Indians would be included. But if you had enough money, presumably, the Bureau of Indians Affairs, you could do it right now. Some 70 percent of the Indians are on reservations, I think we are getting an average of \$837 a year from the Federal Government to support them. This is a very substantial figure in terms of the amount of aid that the Indians seem to be getting. They seem to be supported at the very lowest level of poverty in some cases.

I think the question we have is not whether Indians should participate—obviously, I think they should participate and this program holds some potential for them—the question we have had is why have we not had any programs of this nature for Indians over the 100-and-some-odd years that we have been carrying the major responsibility for them.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Congressman, first of all, the figure of \$837 is not a figure paid to support the Indians. If you take a look at it, as I mentioned before, most of that goes for schools and it is really a way of aiding the States. In other words, the States with a large Indian population, Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota, Montana, would have to foot the bill for providing assistance to Indians if it were not for the fact that the Federal Government is either maintaining schools on Indian reservations or paying under the Johnson-O'Mahoney Act a certain amount of assistance to local school districts.

Mr. GOODELL. This is the net cost today in the Federal Government.

Mr. SCHIFTER. That is right, of which schools, as I say, are the largest item.

Mr. GOODSELL. Schools will be a large item of this, too. I did not mean we are giving them \$837 cash. This is the total benefit. They are getting benefit from the schools as much as they are from any other program that we have.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Yes. As I said, this is aid to the States. This is not really special assistance to Indians. The Federal Government is providing education rather than the States in these communities. In some cases, it is done by the State.

Mr. GOODELL. If you would accept that logic, then every program where we have a joint Federal-State situation or jurisdiction, the Federal money is in the form of aid to the State. All of your various types of welfare programs, your manpower program as it is set up, your vocational education program, you can make the same kind of argument by analogy that these are aids to States not to the individuals involved because there is State money involved.

Mr. SCHIFTER. What I am saying is that education throughout the United States is a service rendered by the States and the local communities. In the case of the Indians, the Federal Government steps in and pays the bill.

What I am trying to say is that this is not a special service for economic development. What we are talking about in this particular bill here is financing opportunities for economic development.

Now, you are absolutely right in that under the broad powers vested in the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the In-