

chance to participate by working gives the student a keen awareness of economic problems and develops a certain camaraderie between his friends and faculty.

Most significantly, it gives the student, from the low-income family, the opportunity to have a few dollars to spend on clothing, recreation, and travel which he otherwise would not have. It gives him the chance to participate in the whole college experience, because some of these experiences cost money.

3. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

This is one of the most exciting programs which has ever been developed. Gentlemen, I do not need to remind you of the historic significance either. Truly, there need be no talented youngsters stay out of college for a lack of funds. The administration and the Congress should be complimented on meeting the high cost of college head on. As things were going, it was indeed impossible for a youngster to aspire to attend college. Financially, it was simply out of reach.

Now, with the advent of this program, coupled with the national defense loans and college work-study jobs, a financial aid package can be arranged which will make it possible for these youngsters to go to college. Significantly, this is a grant program. Undue or excessive loans can be avoided by making this part of the aid package.

Generally, the Office of Education does an adequate job in administering the Federal student aid programs. However, as was mentioned before, less restrictions and more freedom in administration is needed. All too frequently the administrative memorandums come some months after the program has been put into effect at the institution. This results in blind groping and error.

Some difficulties arise in preparing reports, because no instructions well in advance of the report are sent indicating what information will be requested. Likewise, data processing systems are thrown off when USOE changes report requirements and coding in midstream.

I would like at this time to express concern over three major problems.

1. The first of these are: late notification of National Defense Student Loan Program funds.

At this point I would like to stop and give the dates from 1962 to 1966, the dates on which the University of Maine received a firm commitment of national defense funds. In 1962, we got our commitment on August 15th; in 1963, on September 5th; in 1964, on September 16th; 1965 was a very good year, June 16th; in 1966, on August 5th.

This causes great problems in committing money to students since we don't have a commitment ourselves as to exactly how much money we will have to loan.

The U.S. Office of Education need not share the blame here. It seems that Congress insists on waiting until the 11th hour to appropriate the funds.

However, the wrath of the participating institutions must be borne by the Office of Education. It would seem advisable for Congress to put the appropriation of the money for this program at the top of the calendar in order to give participating institutions an opportu-