

are here today pursuant to a directive from the House to investigate and study the operation of the Office of Education and of the new educational programs that have been started by Congress, to make some appraisal of the effectiveness of these programs, and to report back to the Congress.

We have on the committee today, on my right, of course your own Congressman, Mr. Bill Hathaway, of whom we think quite highly. Certainly for a man who is just beginning his second term in Congress he has made a distinguished start, and has vigorously and ably represented this area of the country.

On my left, Congressman Al Quie of Minnesota, a man with more seniority than Mr. Hathaway and myself, a man who because he is in the minority party does not have the opportunity of sitting in this chair and is not burdened with this responsibility, but a very distinguished Member of Congress and a very fine contributor to all of our education programs. He brings a great deal of insight, intelligence, and vigor to the whole consideration of these problems.

We want you to speak your minds on all these things and not to hold back. If you feel you have to go off the record to discuss any of these things we are pretty liberal about that. We want you to feel that this is an exchange of information. If you have any formal statements we will be glad to allow you to either read those into the record or place them in the record as if you had presented them, or to summarize them or to make any comment that you might have.

We have as our first witness this afternoon the deputy commissioner of education for the State of Maine, Mr. Nickerson.

Mr. Nickerson, suppose you just lead off. We will interrupt you from time to time.

(The formal statement by Mr. Nickerson follows:)

STATEMENT ON OPERATION OF FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, BY
KERMIT S. NICKERSON, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kermit S. Nickerson. I am Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of Maine.

I appreciate this opportunity to appear before this committee and thank the committee for its great courtesy in coming to Maine for this hearing.

At the outset I want to say that we are very appreciative of the new and increased Federal aids for various educational programs. A very harmonious relationship exists between this Department and the Federal officials. In matters of development and implementation of programs, demands on the state for records and statistical data, auditing and personal consultation regarding matters subject to review, the utmost in cooperation has existed, while at the same time we have attempted to meet the requirements of the Federal Government diligently, thoroughly and without prejudice.

Time does not allow me to comment in detail on the several programs but I do wish to mention a few of the most important.

The largest aid program until recently was P.L. 874 which provides assistance in the education of Federally-connected pupils. While the state does not handle any of the monies involved, as payments are made directly to each administrative unit, the State Department does have a close connection with all phases of the program such as applications, financial records, reports and all communications are cleared through the state office. This is a major undertaking involving nearly \$3,000,000 and takes a considerable amount of time by members of our staff. There are no Federal funds for administrative purposes. We believe that the Federal Government should provide financial assistance for stafftime required. The same suggestions are proposed for P.L. 815—Construction of Facilities for Federally-connected Pupils. There has been periodic