

concern over the time lag involved in renewal or extension of these laws. I would hasten to add that the Federal administration of these laws as they have involved the state have been conducted in a very efficient and cooperative manner. The Federal officials have been most helpful in securing the financial assistance to which local units are entitled. This program has been a good example of Federal aid without restrictive controls.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

This is a well-established and long-continued program which has operated efficiently and provided both humanitarian and economic assistance to many underprivileged and handicapped persons. The recent increase in matching ratio from 2 to 1 to 3 to 1 and increased Federal assistance has enabled the state to expand the program.

SCHOOL LUNCH AND SPECIAL MILK

This is a sizable program with approximately 85,000 pupils per day participating in the school lunch and 65,000 more in the school milk program in 900 different schools. Federal funds exceeding \$1,000,000 were received for both programs in fiscal 1966.

We are now reimbursing local units at the rate of 4½ cents per meal which is not sufficient to provide a satisfactory meal. It is evident from the calls we have been receiving from school administrators that there is much concern regarding the financial status of many programs. As of June 30, 1966, 32% of the programs in the state were operating in the red. Over 60% of all programs had less than \$500 on hand. The situation has been effected by increases in prices of food and more particularly by a drastic cut in the amount and kinds of donated foods. The value of these foods averaged 32.34% less than for the 1964-65 school year. These programs cannot and should not be allowed to drift deeper into deficit operations. More revenue is necessary but prices to children cannot increase unless the program is to be available only to the economically-advantaged children.

The only solution in sight, unless the Federal appropriation is increased, is for the school districts to provide additional financial support which in turn will tend to react unfavorably or decrease appropriations for instructional purposes.

The state has been hard pressed to provide funds for administration and supervision of these two programs. It is strongly recommended that an allowance of Federal funds be made for administrative purposes as is done in some other programs.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATION ACT

This act has been of inestimable value to the Department of Education and the schools of Maine. It has enabled the state to perform some of the supervisory and leadership functions which have been recognized for many years but could not be accomplished without additional support.

With respect to Titles administered in full or in part by the State Department :

Title II—Student loans

Maine is ranked as 50th among the states in those going to post-secondary educational institutions. This title has enabled many students to enter and remain in the five state colleges which are dedicated to the preparation of teachers. With a serious shortage of teachers this has had a small but beneficial effect.

Title III—Strengthening instruction in science, math, modern foreign language, English, history, civics, reading

Federal funds have made it possible to employ long-needed state supervisors in science, mathematics, modern foreign language, English, social studies and reading. The science equipment in the local schools has been significantly improved by use of Federal-matching funds. Unfortunately in the early years many of the local units were too poor to be able to provide sufficient local funds to utilize all Federal monies available. This situation is now reversed and with the addition of new subject areas Federal funds are insufficient to meet the applications.