

Title V—Guidance and counseling

This title has enabled the Maine Department of Education to employ an additional state supervisor of guidance and has assisted a number of districts to employ guidance personnel. Unfortunately Federal funds have not been available to meet the requests for matching money.

Title VII—Educational media

The Maine Department obtained a substantial grant for The Identification and Evaluation of an Economical and Practical Method of Providing Intellectual Stimulation to Gifted Pupils in Small Secondary Schools Through a Televised Instructional Program. This study stimulated interest in educational television.

Title VIII—Area vocational educational programs

Maine secondary and post-secondary institutes have had few courses eligible for assistance under this title. Southern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute has had some assistance for courses in electronics. As more interest is generated for vocational education greater participation is expected.

Title X—Improvement of statistical services

Federal funds on a matching basis up to \$50,000 have been available and fully matched and utilized. Under this title the Maine Department of Education has been able to purchase automatic data processing equipment and employ a staff for statistical service. The information available at any given time has been greatly expended and much laborious hand work has been eliminated. While the \$50,000 minimum allotment to each state was adequate in the early stages of statistical development Maine has now reached the stage where it is inadequate and the minimum should be increased.

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING ACT

This has been a valuable program for Maine adults and out-of-school youth in need of retraining or further education. A recent report indicated that 193 projects had been in operation involving 8,734 unemployed persons, that 2,779 persons had completed the prescribed training period with a 76% placement record. The cooperation with the Employment Security Commission has been excellent. The most disturbing feature in the operation of this program is the considerable time required for approval by the participating agencies. For example, it is necessary to make plans for site and facilities before a project is presented and several months may elapse before approval is granted. This long delay, oftentimes, makes changes in the original plan necessary.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Title I, Part B—Neighborhood youth corps

The Department of Education has been closely involved with the administration of this title. It has served as the sponsoring agency for the state operating 73 projects and assisting 800 deserving students. These projects have enabled students to remain in school and also performed much useful work.

Title II, Part B—Adult basic education programs

This program is one which is giving real concern because this title has been replaced and the administration of adult education has been transferred to the U.S. Office of Education and Departments of Education. The transfer to the United States Office of Education is considered desirable but concern is expressed for state matching funds and no allowance being made for state administration. Unless some solution is forthcoming Maine IIB programs will come to an end.

DONATED COMMODITIES

The annual value of Federal donations is about \$3,000,000. Without this aid it is estimated that the cost of maintaining school lunch programs would rise about 23%; the cost to state institutions would increase by approximately \$130,000 per year and municipalities would either forgo assistance to the needy or increase appropriations proportionately.

An original acquisition value of nearly \$2,000,000 in surplus property is distributed annually to eligible educational applicants, civil defense units and public libraries.