

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ACTS P.L. 88-210

The allotment to Maine under this act for fiscal 1965 was \$659,252 and approximately \$1,000,000 for fiscal 1966. The state has always made good use of Smith-Hughes and George-Barden vocational funds and has welcomed the Vocational Act of 1963 with increased funds and a higher degree of flexibility. These funds have been used to encourage and expand the meager vocational offering now existing in secondary schools and post-secondary vocational-technical institutes.

## HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES ACT OF 1963 P.L. 88-204

The State Board of Education, under Maine statutes, has served as the Higher Education Facilities Commission for allocation of Federal funds for higher education.

The allotment to Maine for fiscal 1967 is \$3,223,000. As Maine has no public community or technical colleges the amendment which made it possible to transfer funds for community colleges to other institutions was welcomed and has been instrumental in broadening higher educational opportunities in Maine.

The majority of grants have been made to private institutions because matching funds for state institutions have not been available. The state should consider establishing a flexible fund for state-operated institutions which could be used for matching Federal grants.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. In the administration of these programs a very harmonious relationship has existed between the Maine Department of Education and the Federal Government. In matters of development and implementation of programs, demands on the state for records, auditing and personal consultation regarding matters subject to review, the utmost cooperation has existed while at the same time the requirements of the Federal Government were being met diligently, thoroughly and without prejudice to its interest. The suggestions which follow are intended to be made in a constructive manner and for the best interests of all concerned.

2. The Maine Department of Education is in concurrence with the established policy of the Council of Chief State School Officers that general Federal educational aid should be dispensed in accordance with state laws. Such aid would be preferable to a proliferation of special aids, unless a need cannot be met by a general aid.

3. The Department strongly favors Federal legislation which would include funds for the administration of particular programs which require a large amount of state work. Examples of laws where such aid is desired are school lunch and milk programs, aid to war-impacted areas, P. L.'s 874 and 815. Funds should be provided for adequate supervisory services when new subject areas are added, such as NDEA Title III, i.e. the first three subject areas mathematics, science and modern foreign language were funded; the next three, reading, geography and English were also funded but the later subject additions such as industrial arts and arts and humanities have had to be absorbed by state administration. There is also the problem of meeting increased workloads not identifiable with any specific program.

4. We believe that more flexibility should be allowed in the use of funds provided by various titles of a particular act. For example, the State of Maine in past years has been obliged to lapse sizable amounts under Title III of NDEA but has had inadequate funds to meet the need for guidance services under Title V of the same act.

5. It would be very beneficial if major Federal programs could be enacted on an on-going basis and not subject to termination at the end of a one-two-or three year period. Such time limitations do not lend themselves to stability and good budgeting procedures. Delayed extensions of P.L. 874 and NDEA is a good illustration of the need for long-range planning and budgeting. Continuous resolutions are of dubious value when programs are just getting underway and have had no previous level of expenditure as a basis for determining allotments.