Failure to make appropriations on time has proven to be costly in terms of employment of competent personnel, in organization, effectiveness, evaluating and reporting and has caused higher financial outlays.

We are very much concerned with delays in Congressional approval of funds for on-going programs. The delays have resulted in loss of personnel, inadequate planning, and in some cases of loss of a complete program. For example as of December 1, 1966, Title I of P. L. 89–10 is operating without full guidelines for 1966–1967. Eighty per cent of the projects have already been approved for operation under 1965–1966 guidelines. Any changes may necessitate major revisions after a half-year of operations.

6. We would like to see an appropriation of the full authorization or possibly to provide for reallocation among the states when any state does not use its full entitlement. We would like to see the full authorization under NDEA Title III appropriated for acquisition of equipment.

7. Increase the $50,000 ceiling on Federal matching funds in NDEA Title X to allow for increased costs and expanded operations.

8. With respect to P. L. 815 we have experienced great difficulty in utilizing Federal construction aid to which a unit is eligible because of the wage scale requirement. In some cases the benefit of the Federal assistance has been offset in whole or in large part by a wage scale which was much higher than the prevailing rate for similar work in the state or community. To be specific, the small town of Cutler where a Federal radio station was located had to expand their small school system to accommodate additional Federally-connected pupils and was obliged to follow the Boston, Mass. wage scale. As a result, the project was bid three times and reduced considerably from the first plans which were conservative and minimal in nature.

9. We applaud the intent of P. L. 89–10 Title V to assist in strengthening State Departments of Education. We accept the responsibilities that rightfully belong to a state department and will endeavor to see that Federal funds are expended as judiciously as state or local funds and that they are channeled to local units in accordance with the Federal statutes. We do believe that all such educational programs which supplement state and local programs should be channeled through the State Departments of Education and that they should not be by-passed by dealing directly with local units.

10. We find that we are dealing with many agencies and would prefer to see educational assistance programs administered through the U.S. Office of Education. The transfer of adult education, and handicapped children is a step in what we believe is the right direction.

11. With regard to the Vocational Education Act of 1963, we believe that the most beneficial change would be the elimination of matching categories to permit across the board matching. In Maine, we are over matching considerably in the total amount but do not match Federal funds available in some specific categories. If a higher degree of flexibility were allowed Maine could make better use of these funds. Our vocational administrators also desire some relaxation in the detail required for the annual description of projected activities. We do have an approved state plan to which all programs must conform and must submit complete and detailed reports. These should be sufficient because oftentimes it is difficult to project activities in detail, especially when appropriations may not be determined prior to the development of such a projection. This is mainly an administrative matter.

12. We endorse the principle of consolidation and coordination of aids but ask that care be taken that one program is not increased at the expense of another unless the aims are similar. For example, the proposal to reduce allotments under P. L. 874 because of funds available under Title I of P. L. 89–10 would not be comparable in this state because the purposes and pupils served are not comparable.

STATEMENT OF KERMIT S. NICKERSON, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, AUGUSTA, MAINE

Mr. NICKERSON. Thank you, Mr. Gibbons and members of the committee. I am Kermit S. Nickerson, deputy commissioner of education representing Commissioner William T. Logan, Jr., who could