

cooperative manner. The Federal officials have been most helpful in securing the financial assistance to which local units are entitled.

They have frequently gone out of their way to assist local units. This program has been a good example of Federal assistance without restrictive or limiting Federal controls.

The vocational rehabilitation program is another of the older, well established, longstanding programs which has operated efficiently and has provided both humanitarian and economic assistance to many underprivileged and handicapped persons.

The recent increase that Congress has made in matching ratio from 2 to 1 to 3 to 1, three Federal and one State, has increased the Federal assistance and has enabled the State to expand the program.

We have had some problems in connection with matching moneys for the rehabilitation but most of this has been due to the State's inability or lack of matching appropriation. I think sometimes it has been due to the fact that not enough was asked to match all the Federal moneys. If this was a lesson to be learned, I think we have learned it, and I am sure the next legislature will not have any fault to find in that respect.

Mr. QUIE. Mr. Nickerson, because of some other reasons, and my interest in how vocational rehabilitation operates, would you mind explaining in more detail how the vocational rehabilitation works in Maine, both on the local level, who has the responsibility there, and who does on the State level?

Mr. NICKERSON. In Maine, which is not true in some States, I know, it is a function of the State Department of Education under the State Board of Education. The division of vocational rehabilitation is a part of our staff organization and operation. We have a person directly responsible, and have regional offices located in strategic centers in the State. We have eight of these regional offices, so that the counselors will be available to local people who want to come in to talk to them, without having to travel to a central point in Augusta.

We do have a central control. Of course, the funds are limited to the Federal and the State appropriations so that the central office makes an allotment to each of the regional counselor offices and then there is a basic approval at the central office of all of these programs.

But the local school systems are encouraged to make applications or to provide consultation services for local people, students in school or out of school, who might need these services.

So we have quite a close connection between our State office and the regional offices. Does that answer your question?

Mr. QUIE. Do local school districts actually operate a vocational rehabilitation program?

Mr. NICKERSON. No. There may be some service in a local school that is funded through the State and through Federal funds but not directly operating locally on that.

Now we have some programs in institutions in the State, not school systems as such but institutions in the State, which are assisted in this way, specialized services.

Mr. QUIE. Thank you.

Mr. NICKERSON. Turning to the school lunch and special milk program, which is a sizable program involving approximately one-half of the students in the State, we have about \$1 million of Federal money