

past. Now the State has the problem, if this is to be continued then this must be handled through a State appropriation, as I understand it.

Mr. QUIE. The U.S. Office of Education always actually ran the adult basic education program so the transfer really did not bring about anything very new.

Mr. NICKERSON. The funding is the problem.

Mr. QUIE. But prior to this the U.S. Office of Education funded a State administrator of this program?

Mr. NICKERSON. Yes.

Mr. QUIE. Now they won't fund the State administrator, and you are supposed to pick that up?

Mr. NICKERSON. That is as I understand it.

Now I have a possible solution to this dilemma in that under title V or through further State legislative appropriations—our budget was made up last summer without providing for this—under title V of the Public Law 89-10 it may be possible to continue this work in basic adult education.

It is unknown at the present time whether that can be done. That is a possibility.

Mr. GIBBONS. How big a problem are you talking about?

Mr. NICKERSON. It is not a major problem. It is one of these matters of getting a program started, with staff employed, and then having the question of the salary of the staff. That is the major problem.

Mr. QUIE. I can understand why you are worrying about your budget. The State department of education can't spread it out to all the areas you might want, but this amount of Federal aid is going to basic adult education, and you evidently need it in Maine because there are people who don't have the equivalent of an eighth grade education in Maine, quite a number of them.

Why do you say, so flatly, the program will come to an end? It is like you either pick up the administration money or you are not going to let this help go to those people.

Mr. NICKERSON. I have on my desk two memos from our director, not the person doing the work but the bureau chief in charge of the program, who feels that perhaps this can be continued to June 30, but beyond that date we will have to make some other arrangements as far as the funds available are concerned.

Mr. GIBBONS. How much money is that?

Mr. NICKERSON. It is not a large sum. It is a matter of State leadership in this program with which we are concerned.

Mr. QUIE. The legislature will convene the first part of January?

Mr. NICKERSON. Yes, but the budgets are already made up and it is a question of—

Mr. GIBBONS. Are you talking of \$50,000, \$100,000?

Mr. NICKERSON. Probably less than \$50,000.

Mr. QUIE. Evidently the people with less than eighth grade education don't have the political muscle to put it through.

Mr. NICKERSON. If I may comment on that, Congressman Quie, Maine has had its problems of funding the elementary and secondary education programs without consideration of adult programs. So that has been the local problem.