

Mr. QUIE. Do you have any comparison of the two residential vocational schools with a Job Corps center?

Mr. NICKERSON. I don't think we have.

Mr. QUIE. Do you have any Job Corps centers in Maine?

Mr. NICKERSON. Yes, the one at Poland Spring for girls. There is one at Mount Desert, Bar Harbor, for boys. I think there are about a thousand expected when they get full enrollment at Poland Spring, and about half that number at Bar Harbor.

Mr. HATHAWAY. The one in Poland is the largest girls' center in the United States.

Mr. NICKERSON. With respect to the Higher Education Facilities Act, I know you have been talking about higher education but the State board of education is the higher education facilities commission in the State by virtue of State statutes and interpretation, and has had the function of allotting the funds to both the private and the public institutions.

I would point out here that the majority of the grants have been made to private institutions because the State institutions have not had the balance of the funds available for matching funds. At a hearing that was held Monday of this week with the bureau of public improvements, the incoming Governor's representatives, it was pointed out that the State needed a flexible fund that might be available for State institutions to be used for matching the Federal grants.

In this way the Federal funds could assist the public institutions to much better advantage than they are doing at the present time.

Mr. QUIE. What do you mean by a flexible fund?

Mr. NICKERSON. That the State appropriate a fund that is not earmarked specifically for this building at this institution. As it has been at the present time, appropriations have been for a specific building as such on a particular campus and no transfer is allowed. But if the State is going to afford this aid for its taxpayers and citizens it must set up a flexible fund.

We cannot say so many Federal dollars will be available for this institution because the applications come in, we have a priority system, and they must take their own chances with this priority. If they qualify, fine. If they don't, they don't get the money.

Mr. QUIE. In Minnesota, the University of Minnesota could use all the money if they worked out an agreement that they share things more equally.

Mr. NICKERSON. The University of Maine, of course, being our largest institution, has had assistance from this fund, but private colleges have had more than the State institutions.

Mr. QUIE. The State board of education, did it comply with the requirements of the commission on higher education facilities when the law was passed, or did you have to make a little shift in the State board in order to comply?

Mr. NICKERSON. No changes were made. It was deemed eligible or acceptable by the attorney general, and Washington officials in charge of this act reviewed this, and accepted the State board as meeting the necessary requirements.

Mr. QUIE. You always had a representative of the University of Maine on the board and always had a representative of some private college?