

Mr. NICKERSON. I don't think we have in the State of Maine. Perhaps this is part of our own inability to have taken advantage of this in early days. But we are certainly at the present time not able to meet the needs.

Mr. QUITE. You said you let it lapse. Why did you let it lapse in sizable amounts?

Mr. NICKERSON. The local school systems were not prepared or could not obtain the necessary matching funds for their share of it, the 50-50 basis. While the Federal dollars were there, like the rehabilitation that I mentioned earlier, the local dollars for matching were not available. So these moneys were not utilized, which was unfortunate, but we could not do anything about it at the time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Thank you.

Mr. NICKERSON. We would like to see, if possible, an increase in the \$50,000 ceiling on matching funds under title X of NDEA to allow for the expansion of services and operations and for increased costs which have developed since this was put into operation. This is not a large item but would help considerably.

With respect to Public Law 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 a large part by the wage scale which was much higher than the prevailing rate for similar work in the State or in the area or community.

To be specific, the small town of Cutler on the northeastern coast of Maine, where a Federal radio station is located, a few years ago had to expand their small school system to accommodate additional federally connected pupils, and was obliged not to have the Cutler wage scale which might be rather low, not the Bangor or Portland wage scale but the Boston wage scale.

Mr. GIBBONS. How in the world could that have happened? We never intended that to happen.

Mr. NICKERSON. This was protested. We made vigorous protest on this scale. We got a little change but still there was a very wide discrepancy. We are in favor of good wages but there seemed to be such a wide discrepancy. What actually happened in this particular project, which was a small project, it was bid three times before they were able to get an acceptable bid within funds available, and it was cut back each time. And it was a minimal building to start with. So that this is an illustration that we sometimes have in connection with our rural areas.

Mr. GIBBONS. That is about 300 miles away. That would be 300 miles away from Boston—something like that?

Mr. NICKERSON. Yes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Have they tied you in with the Boston wage scale?

Mr. NICKERSON. Yes.

We believe that all of the educational programs which supplement State and local programs, and I am thinking particularly of the local here, emphasizing that, should be administered through the educational agencies, local and State, and should be channeled in their operations, in relation to the Federal Government, through the State departments of education. And the department should not be by-