

For example, we were a little disturbed about the proposal to reduce allotments under Public Law 874 because of funds made available under title I of 89-10 or other acts but we did not feel this would be comparable in the State because the purpose and the pupils served were different, were not comparable.

Mr. QUIE. You say you should always have separate funding for Public Law 874 but you would like to see some other categorical programs shifted to general aid. How do you feel about vocational education? Do you feel that should be continued as a program limited to vocational education, however, removing—

Mr. NICKERSON. I think vocational education is a part of the general educational program and could be well included in the overall approach to this.

Mr. QUIE. I hope the vocational educators don't give you too hard a time for saying this.

Mr. NICKERSON. May I say in our department that vocational education is not a separate entity itself. We have a bureau of vocational education but it is a part of the division of instruction. So it is considered to be a part of the entire program, not a separate entity.

Mr. QUIE. I have been amazed at the strength of the State department of education here in Maine in handling many of these programs as you have gone through them. I kind of suspected first you were taking credit for some things that you did not have full responsibility for but I see you do.

Mr. NICKERSON. Thank you. We consider we are a service organization and try to be of all possible assistance.

I have mentioned previously that we would like to see State approval of 89-10, title III, and I think too there could be quite a high degree of correlation between some of these title III projects and the title IV laboratory projects.

The title IV laboratory projects are designed to improve education. They need some experimental centers. I think these could be correlated and could work well together.

One of the suggestions that has been made by our accounting staff is that the statutory date for filing the annual vocational reports should be eliminated from the statute. This is peculiar to this particular act. I understand it is uniformly agreed among the States and the U.S. Office of Education that the September date is unrealistic, cannot be met in most States. It is not being met in Maine, although we dislike very much to be in technical violation of the law.

But all in all, the administrative problems have been of a minor nature. At times there has been a lack of sufficient copies of enacted laws, regulations, and guidelines and circular letters to keep all of our program directors and our acting staff well informed.

Our account staff is involved with audits and they need to be kept abreast, but I think this is something that can be easily corrected. There has been some problem with oral interpretations of some of the new laws but they have been given in the best of faith. Perhaps they may be subject to review later, and we hope we don't have too many difficulties at audit time when that arrives.

I think, and I am not too serious about this, sometimes we have been a little concerned about the number of meetings that have been held to orient the staff people about the programs, but we feel this is a good procedure to hold meetings for informing people, and partic-