

ularly our staff members, about these programs. All in all, it has been helpful.

I think we have many of these same problems administratively at the State level, and we have one of new and changing personnel and I know that the U.S. Office of Education has had the problem of new and changing personnel.

I would say all in all, our experience has been a happy one and we feel that the cooperation we have had has been of a high degree.

Mr. HATHAWAY. What do you think about decentralizing the Office of Education? Are you in favor of it?

Mr. NICKERSON. I think you can have too much decentralizing or too many offices to go through. The Boston office on 874 and 815 has been an excellent aid. Our business has been transacted very efficiently there. There is a meeting going on today that I would have liked to have attended on the changes in the law. As far as many of these programs are concerned, I think the Boston office has difficulty keeping—I am using Boston as an illustration of regional—keeping informed and having to go to Washington for many things.

We have a feeling we would rather deal in most cases directly with headquarters than going through too many agencies.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Do you think if the Boston office were given more authority it would work out better?

Mr. NICKERSON. I think they need more information and authority if it is to be done that way.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Your information channels are pretty good back and forth?

Mr. NICKERSON. Yes, they are. They want to be very helpful. We have no problem in that respect. But delays are always involved when one must go through too many hands and too many offices. I know that we have this process established in this way, the regional offices, and perhaps it can be improved some utilized to good advantage that way. We would prefer in many cases to deal directly with Washington.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Thank you.

Mr. QUIE. There is one education activity that has not been spoken of this morning, and this afternoon. That is the National Teachers Corps. Do you have any of that activity going on in Maine?

Mr. NICKERSON. We have indicated an interest in the Teachers Corps and have had some applications for placements, but I don't know that we have any in the State. I think there were some delays here in getting this underway.

Mr. QUIE. I question whether it will live very long, too.

Mr. GIBBONS. Thank you very much. We appreciate the long time that you have spent here with us. You have certainly handled yourself extremely well. You have given us a lot of information.

Let us take a 10-minute break right now, and come back around 3:10, something like that. Then if the gentlemen who are going to be next on the program will sit at the table in the same order that their names appear on the slip it will help the reporter.

(Brief recess.)

Mr. GIBBONS. As we open this section of our hearings, if those of you who are out in the audience feel you would like to participate in the discussion we are about to have, just move up closer. If you