

that nobody, including other superintendents, can understand it, or it is so simple that it doesn't have anything to say.

Mr. GIBBONS. That is what I always thought about it, too.

Mr. LEWIS. I think it is important to get rid of that thing.

The second point, late commitment of funds from Congress. We would like to know in March or April at the latest what we would have for the coming season so that we can go out and hire in the spring. Right now I am running teacher aides because I can pick a housewife off the street, put her in as a teacher aide and not contract with her. So if funds run short—and as has been pointed out we don't know what we will have this year—I can dump her when funds expire. This limits our creativity.

I would like to speak to one final point, which is in Headstart, run very successfully in my school union last summer.

We are beginning to feel for the coming season the Federal nudge. I would like you fellows to get rid of this. The Federal nudge consists of this: We are told in forthcoming guidelines we are going to be instructed that our teacher aides must come from the poverty group. We want to hire the best teacher aides we can find. We want to hire teacher aides who have standards that the little children might emulate. I don't see that the school is a welfare agency, designed to pump money into the pockets of the poor. If we are going to run an educational program we want to run a good one.

Last year we were encouraged to hire as teachers parents of the children who we were to enroll in the Headstart program. We didn't do it. We hired, as Mr. Grant has said, competent teachers who were already teaching little children. This was not mandatory. I hope it won't become so. But the guidelines seem to getting a little more strict and more strict to the point that an independent character such as myself may come to the point where we have to recommend to our school committee that we dump it because we are getting too much Federal control. It is beginning to creep. So far it has been all right.

Those are the three minor points that I would like to mention.

Mr. GIBBONS. Thank you.

Mr. MERCIER.

#### STATEMENT OF WOODROW A. MERCIER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN MAINE SCHOOL UNION 113

(Mr. Mercier's formal statement follows):

##### STATEMENT OF WOODROW A. MERCIER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN MAINE SCHOOL UNION 113

Mr. Chairman and Members of Special Subcommittee on Education, I am Woodrow A. Mercier, Superintendent of Schools in Maine School Union 113, comprising the towns of East Millinocket and Medway. It is a pleasure to appear before you this afternoon to discuss with you the program introduced in our school union as a result of money made available under the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965. Later in my presentation, I shall make specific recommendations which I feel this Committee should consider.

The town of East Millinocket is a compact area, with its chief source of industry the Great Northern Paper Company. The elementary school enrollment is 534 pupils. Medway has a sparsely-scattered populace, with an elementary school enrollment of 303 students. All students in these towns attend