

Mr. GIBBONS. That does not sound like too good an organizational technique to me, your position as representative of the Commissioner and apparently Dr. Johnson, your colleague, is not working under you but is working parallel to you. Am I right?

Dr. DEHART. Not exactly. I think that in part is true. I will say that that is what has been. I think since the Office of Field Services was established with an Associate Commissioner that the reorganization is, step by step, delegating definite authority out in the field. I think it is the intention to center many of the program activities in the field, and the Assistant Regional Commissioner will then be a line officer rather than a staff officer.

In the beginning, the Commissioner's representative was a staff officer. There was a reason for that, Mr. Gibbons. This was a new step and local people back there in 1960—some local people and education agencies—feared there might be Federal control if too big a staff of the Office of Education were placed in the field.

However, Dr. Derthick went ahead with this because the experience of the school assistance program representatives in federally affected areas had been quite successful.

Studies had been made. One was made by Dr. Ferber, superintendent of schools in Brookline, that showed conclusively that a program that paid money from the Federal Government directly to the school district did not demonstrate any interference at all with State and local programs.

It was largely on the strength of that that Commissioner Derthick planned to go ahead with this organization. Then with the expansion of the Vocational and Manpower Acts other staff were added. We have four such men in this region now. I think that the fact of regionalization of some of the functions of the Office of Education is quite well accepted now.

From time to time we will hear objections. I have noted this humorously enough. Sometimes there will be among local groups a public statement against Federal aid and interference and so forth.

I recall one such experience. Then one man who did the talking came up to me afterwards and said, "Say, when are we going to get that check we were supposed to get last week?"

Mr. QUIE. We find the same thing. A lot of people making speeches against Federal aid but they want the impact aid.

Dr. DEHART. I think right now in this region our expansion of the field services is a sort of halfway between State. I think the direction is good. We have control management of the budget. We don't have to go to Washington so long as I don't allow any expenditures that exceed the total amount.

We used to have to go back for every package of pencils we wanted and that kind of stuff. I understand that under the new organization, appointment authority up through grade 13 will rest with the region and not with Washington. There are some reasons why higher appointment authority cannot be delegated.

In some cases the Commissioner is required by law to approve the appointments and make them.

Mr. QUIE. Appointment up to grade 13? I don't understand that.

Dr. DEHART. You have your GS grades 1 through 18. As it now is in the region, we have appointive authority.