

Mr. QUIE. Is that the breakoff point on supervisory authority?

Dr. DEHART. No, it is not. This varies among agencies in the region, Mr. Quie. In the Office of Education for a number of years, we have had regional appointive authority through grade 9. That is, the regional director and senior program representative, the Commissioner's representative, could appoint and recruit directly from the region. Above grade 9, all personnel actions, recruitment, appointment and so forth, with the approval of the regional director and Commissioner's representative, is done by Washington.

Now that will be extended according to information we have received, and I believe it is entirely official and is in effect now in regions that have been reorganized and now have a regional assistant commissioner. The appointing authority will be up through grade 13.

Mr. GIBBONS. Dr. DeHart, what is your grade level?

Dr. DEHART. GS 15.

Mr. GIBBONS. Dr. Johnson, what is yours?

Dr. JOHNSON. 14.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Dr. DeHart, is there any geographical breakdown of staff in the regional office—that is, someone in charge of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont?

Dr. DEHART. There is for periods. The staff people for a period of a year or two may have a designated territory and then be changed. It is not permanent. I don't believe Dr. Johnson in higher education has a fixed geographical distribution.

Mr. HATHAWAY. We had the feeling expressed yesterday, and I have heard it expressed before, that the problems of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York are different from the problems in southern New England. They thought the regional office was not really as conversant with their problems as they were in the Boston area and Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Dr. DEHART. We are aware of the fact that in the New England region you have in a general way two divisions. In my conversations with State commissioners of education I am sensitive to that. I think one of the reasons we have not had a geographical breakdown has been the fact that we have an extremely small staff here in New England.

We are way understaffed as compared to what had been projected, the reason being of course now the personnel freeze, and up to a few weeks ago, the back of appropriated funds for the current year's operation.

But in terms of the overall planning that I have seen for the various regions, and I have seen the Atlanta, Ga., chart, I think they are taking into account the need for staff to cover these functions and to take into consideration the special needs within the regions.

I feel very hopeful as we look toward the future, and yet I can readily acknowledge that some of these observations that you have pointed out currently and in times past are probably quite accurate.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Are the personnel on the staff indigenous to this region? Are they from New England originally?

Dr. DEHART. Yes, and no. I am not. I am a native of New Jersey. Dr. Johnson has had broad experience and long residence in New England. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hondrogen are both from New Hampshire. Mr. Jones comes from Missouri. Two other men in voca-