

Mr. GIBBONS. For the life of me I can't see the necessity of getting high-powered scenario writers to go out in the field to write up these scenarios and then pawn them off on the agencies.

I have picked up a hundred of them and tried to read them. I would say 90 percent of the material in each one of them is the same. The verbiage may be a little different. It looks to me it is something where you could almost put the information on a punchcard and get it done.

Am I oversimplifying the thing or am I correct?

Dr. DEHART. I think you have raised a challenge that ought to be looked into. I think everybody that looks at them in the region—everything that you are criticizing is done in Washington and it is not shared in the region. We don't have voice in it at all.

Mr. GIBBONS. You even have to hire readers in Washington to read the programs. The agencies can't read them. They are read outside the agency. Then they get a one-page summary. I don't understand it. I was wondering if there was some good reason for it. What do you think about it as educators and people in this field? I see some of the people in the audience smiling back there.

Dr. DEHART. I think these complicated forms confuse people who are working in the field. I don't know how the average layman who is the object of the benefits of these programs can be very happy with them if he can't read them easily and understand them thoroughly. But I understand that they are developed on the basis of policy by professionals and that they all have to be reviewed by lawyers, and then they all have to be approved for a cost factor by people interested in granting money down there. I suppose by the time all these people get them through and have them legally and technically correct they have the kind of document they need but they really need simplification in general.

Mr. GIBBONS. These are the kinds of things that are bounced back and forth time and time again, the local people tell us, because they have not filled out "page umpty-ump" correctly. Are you people bouncing them back or do they come back from Washington?

Dr. DEHART. They come back from Washington, generally speaking.

Dr. JOHNSON. Except in the student financial area.

Mr. GIBBONS. Let us talk about student financial aid. There is nothing really unique in each institution about it. Does every institution have to develop a very complex program and write it all out in scenario form?

Dr. JOHNSON. No, I don't feel what they have to do is unreasonable at all. I think the application they submit is quite reasonable. We ask the kind of information we really have to have in order to evaluate how much these institutions should be granted.

It is our responsibility to do that. These are funds that are limited in amount. They have to be distributed to the institutions to the maximum extent possible. In the student financial aid area we do ask for information in connection with the institution's own student financial aid programs, in connection with the enrollments, in connection with the costs to attend that institution.